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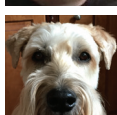
Valley Patriot reader Al Veilleux established a Dan Coady, Jr. Memorial Scholarship to honor the Coady's tow truck driver who was killed last month on Rt. 495. The Scholarship effort raised \$3,700 for North Andover Thomson School graduates; Jamie Plodzick and Camrey Adams. Pina Prinzivalli in the background. Pictured above: Dan Coady, Jr.

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Coverage of the 14th Anniversary BASH!

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VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

WWII, U.S. Army Air Corp. - Sgt. Peter D'Ambrosio

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Meeting this American Hero at Mary Ann's Diner in Derry, NH on a Saturday morning, I was amazed at how quickly and confidently he used his smartphone. While eating, he showed me lots of information about his World War II unit

and its planes, moving rapidly from one screen to the next, at a speed that would put any millennial to shame. Sgt. Peter D'Ambrosio, born during the "Roaring 20's", was an expert at using 21st century technology.

Reading a Veteran's DD 55, also known Discharge Papers, (now known as a DD 214) is a task routinely done in Human

Resources offices, town halls, and at VA Hospitals throughout the United States. On my desk, while I write this, is the "En-listed Record and Report of Separation-Honorable Discharge" of Sgt. Peter A. D'Ambrosio, 73th Bomber Wing (B-29) U.S. Army Air Corp, Pacific Theater of Operation, World War II. Sgt. D'Ambrosio was qualified on the M1 Carbine, received the Good Conduct Medal, both the American and Pacific Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

According to his discharge papers, he participated in the "Air Offensive against Japan". He served nearly three years, almost all of it on the Island of Saipan, where he serviced the planes tasked with securing the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan.

After finishing basic training, Sgt. D'Ambrosio spent ten weeks in Biloxi, MS to become an Aircraft and Engine Mechanic. He later trained in San Diego, California on B24 Liberators for about a month, then abruptly was transferred to Kansas to train on the B29 Superfortresses. The B29 aircraft, which their crews called ships, was the world's first pressurized bomber and was also equipped with remote controlled machine guns. His unit was known as the 58th Bomb Wing, which eventually turned into the 73rd Bomb Wing, then the 500th Bomb Group, which was made up of three squadrons, deploying to Saipan in the Mariana Islands.

Peter said that in nine months of operations, his unit conducted seventy nine



bombing raids on Japan. During most of his time on Saipan, he was a crew chief on the Cessna UC-78. According to the Collin's Foundation's website, the plane, known affectionately as the "Bamboo Bomber" because of its wooden construction, was well known as a multi-engine trainer of WWII. Many bomber pilots had their initial training on this aircraft. Talking with Sgt.D'Ambrosio, the official use of the UC-78 aircraft on the Islands of Tinian and Saipan, was moving U.S. Mail, critical medical supplies and repair parts



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EDITORIAL: TRUMP WAS RIGHT ABOUT LAWRENCE

Last month, President Trump accurately pointed out that because the City of Lawrence is considered a “sanctuary city” it attracts criminals who are here illegally, because they know they won’t be deported.

Within a day, Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera held a press conference where he went into a predictable “defend my city” mode, denying Lawrence has the problem.

But, what he didn’t say is even more telling.

He didn’t say what he told the Valley Patriot last year, that Lawrence is NOT a “sanctuary city” but a “Trust Act City”. There is a difference.

A Sanctuary city is one where the police cannot notify federal officials when they arrest a violent felon who is here illegally.

A “Trust Act City” is one where the police can and do work with federal officials when a violent felon is arrested and found to be an illegal alien.

Why didn’t Rivera make that distinction in public? Especially when the whole world – including criminals – were watching?

Having the mayor make that distinction would go a long way towards discouraging criminals who think Lawrence is a safe haven for illegal alien drug dealers and violent gangs.

It’s clear Rivera cares about Lawrence and wants to help the city’s image, but that doesn’t happen when criminals flow into the city expecting to be protected from deportation, even if that’s not really the case. The term “sanctuary city” makes Lawrence a magnet for these criminals and Rivera needs to correct that.

Instead of Mayor Rivera and other officials obscuring the actual substance of what the president said, a more helpful response would have been to hold a press conference and say;

“YES! I agree with the president! Lawrence has a major drug distribution problem! And now that President Trump has adequately proven that he understands the problem, I challenge him to provide millions more in federal dollars to help us combat the massive drug and gang problem he talked about.”

That’s a win-win for everyone. Trump either has to put up or shut up.

We tell addicts all the time that admitting you have a problem is the first step to solving it. That’s true about everything in life. If Lawrence officials would just admit that the city is the network hub for heroin and fentanyl distribution in Northern New England, it would give them the moral high ground to demand more help from the state and federal government.

This is not about being “mean to Lawrence” or picking on poor people. Pretending that it is, is dishonest and unhelpful.

On a much more positive note, Lawrence has seen a 45% reduction in violent crime in the last four months and it’s not because of the weather.

The State Police Gag Unit, the Lawrence Police Street Narcotics Unit, the State Police Fugitive Task Force, and the amazing undercover work of the DEA and ICE have been draining the swamp of gangs and drug dealers since November.

They have shut down a dozen or more fentanyl labs. They have arrested and deported dozens of hard core drug dealers, rapists, gun merchants and killers. They have applied pressure to street dealers, and cut off a major supply of heroin and fentanyl.

All of these things have resulted in fewer drug and gang related crimes in the neighborhoods of the city. That is what has spilled over to a reduction in assaults and robberies.

While we do not think Mayor Rivera’s response to the President’s remarks were helpful or appropriate, we also have to give him the lion’s share of the credit for the reduction in crime. He has hired a pro-active police chief, Roy Vasque, and is letting him do the job of fighting crime the way he sees fit.

We love Lawrence, and we are hoping this is the start of a more peaceful city.

Auditor Bump Exposes \$16.9M in Public Assistance Fraud

Fraud Investigations Part of Bump’s Efforts to Strengthen the State’s Social Safety Net Programs

BOSTON, MA — State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump today released the annual report for her office’s Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI), which identified a record \$16.9 million in public assistance benefit fraud in Fiscal Year 2017—a nine percent increase over the previous year. This marks the seventh straight year of increased findings by Bump’s office. The increased findings is not an indication of

more fraud in these programs, but rather a reflection of the growing effectiveness of Bump’s agency and expanded use of data analytics to identify fraudulent activities.

“Public benefit programs play a critical role in the health and well-being of our state’s most vulnerable residents, from children to the elderly,” Bump said of the annual report. “Our work identifies and roots out those individuals abusing the system in order to strengthen the integrity of these programs for those who need them. BSI has done impressive work

effectively utilizing data analytics to proactively identify potential incidences of fraud, further strengthening this important safety net.”

In total, Bump’s office identified \$16,879,702.88 in fraud, spread over 1,150 completed investigations. The majority of the fraud--\$10,302,458.47 or 61 percent—was identified in the MassHealth program.

During the year, BSI investigations resulted in:

- An East Boston woman pleading guilty in federal court for fraudulently obtaining public benefits. She was ordered to pay over \$50,000 in restitution to the Social Security Administration and over \$40,000 in restitution to MassHealth;
- A Rhode Island man pleading guilty to fraudulently receiving more than \$45,000 in MassHealth benefits and \$8,324 in DTA benefits; and
- A Fall River woman being sentenced for identity theft. She was sentenced to 27 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and restitution of nearly \$300,000 to the Social Security Administration, the Massachusetts State Supplemental Program, MassHealth, and the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).

As State Auditor, Bump has made it a priority to strengthen the integrity and accessibility of public assistance programs.

In addition to identifying fraud in these programs, last year, her office began a series of audits to identify barriers that individuals face when seeking assistance from public benefit programs. As part of this effort, Bump’s office has provided recommendations to reduce these barriers at the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund and the Department of Veterans’ Services.

Public benefit programs are designed to provide needed assistance to the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. According to recent reports from MassHealth and DTA, fifty-eight percent of MassHealth members and 91 percent of the state’s Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (also known as SNAP or food stamps) beneficiaries are either children, disabled adults, or seniors. Furthermore, 72 percent of households receiving SNAP benefits had a gross income below the Federal Poverty Level - \$24,300 for a household of four.

The Office of the State Auditor’s Bureau of Special Investigations investigates allegations of public assistance fraud throughout the Commonwealth. Its work ensures taxpayer dollars are used effectively and that benefits are available to residents who truly need and qualify for them. BSI investigates programs administered by DTA, and the Division of Medical As-

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The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition, are opinion pieces.

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Corrections: Please contact the editors at valleypatriot@aol.com

The Valley Patriot can be found in more than 800 locations in 51 communities in Massachusetts and NH.

FRAUD: PAGE 17

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Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan, Jordana Cepeda and State Representative Diana DiZoglio.

Valley Patriot Readers Contribute \$1,500 for Gr. Lawrence Tech Scholarship

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN, 1 MARKET ST, LAWRENCE.

This year's Valley Patriot/Greater Lawrence Tech. School scholarship goes to Jordana Cepeda thanks to two donations to the Valley Patriot. Jordana was chosen among several students who applied for the scholarship thanks to the hard work and screening of Methuen City Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro who read the reasons Jordana was selected for the scholarship.

Mike Gagliardi, head of Laborer's Union Local 175 donated \$1,000 for this scholarship again this year. Tim Wood, Publisher of Methuen LOOP Weekly donated \$500, bringing our Gr. Law Tech Scholarship total this year to \$1,500.

Jordana Cepeda is the daughter of Brendaliz Ortega and Juan Cepeda, resides in Methuen and is in the Business Technology program at Greater Lawrence Technical School. As a result of her exceptional work

ethic in her career area she has obtained employment through the Cooperative Education Program at Greater Lawrence Technical School. Jordana has excelled academically in advanced classes and maintains a 3.6 G.P.A.

Jordana is a John and Abigail Adams Scholar. She has volunteered at the Cor Unum and the Lawrence Senior Center. She is a member of the Stand and Deliver Mentoring Program at Raytheon. Additionally, she has volunteered as manager of the Track and Field, Swim, and Boys Soccer teams.

Jordana's future plan is to study Chemical Engineering at a 4 year university.

As she accepted the scholarship, she was flanked by and congratulated by Methuen State Rep. Diana DiZoglio, Methuen School Committee members DJ Deeb, Jana DiNatale, Francisco Urena Secretary of Veterans Services, and Jana Zanni Pesche.



U.S. Senate Candidate Geoff Diehl (who donated \$500 towards Darlene's Scholarship) stands with Darlene Santos (center) and Eugene Smith who donated \$1,000 from his non-profit Military Connections and Lawrence Firefighter Mike Armano on behalf of the Lawrence Firefighters who donated \$500

Valley Patriot Readers Contribute \$3,300 for Lawrence High JrROTC Scholar

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN, 1 MARKET ST, LAWRENCE.

Lawrence High School Senior Darlene Santos joined her fellow students in the Jr. ROTC and marched into the Valley Patriot's 14th Anniversary BASH last week as the Jr. ROTC has done every year at the beginning of the scholarship portion of the event.

But this year Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan had a surprise for Santos after the Jr. ROTC stood in formation at the front of the stage.

Duggan walked in front of the formation and asked, "which one of you is Darlene Santos?"

"I am," Darlene said in a low voice.

"Can someone please relieve her of colors?" Duggan asked as he pulled Darlene out of formation and brought her to the front.

"Every year we give a scholarship to

a couple of Lawrence High School kids and this year a gentleman named Eugene Smith came to me, he's an Army veteran and runs a non-profit called Military Connections; he also sits on the board with me at the Lawrence Lions Club. He said to me a few weeks ago that he came to the bash last year, I think it's amazing what you do for the kids, so I wanted to give you \$1,000 this year for an Jr. ROTC kid. As soon as I posted on line a 'thank you' to Eugene a whole bunch of people chimed in and said they wanted to contribute to this scholarship as well," Duggan said.

"So we added it all up and we want to give Darlene Santos a total of \$2,500, but I also want to tell you why we chose Darlene Santos for this scholarship."

"Darlene Santos has worked at Canobie Lake Park, Volunteered at Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence, the Spicket

JrROTC: PAGE 25

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Dear Julia: a Special Letter

Jeff Katz

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Dear Julia:

I'm writing you this note on March 7, 2018. Today is the day that you turn 15 years old. It's an interesting day for me and Mom, but it's another day for you. You're not like other kids, my sweet. You've never made a big deal of your birthday; you've never asked us for any type of a special gift. Not for your birthday, not for Chanukah not for Christmas. You've treated each and every day in the same way. Mom will wake you up and you'll have a smile on your face when you see her. She'll play some of your music and you'll smile even more. You may laugh or giggle or squeal but there will not be any words. You won't complain about having to go to school. You won't be happy to hear that it is a snow day. You won't celebrate the fact that today is fifteen years since you were born.

Most fifteen year old girls would be thinking about clothing, college or a car. By fifteen, many dads have already had to warn their daughters about some dopey boy. But today, you'll watch your favorite episode of Jack's Big Music Show, enjoy your cereal and be on the lookout for cookies wherever you can find them. Mom and I know that you will be with us as long as we're alive, but we worry about what happens after we're gone. You have two wonderful brothers and I pray every day that we have raised them well enough to know that they will need to look after you some day. You may be our middle child, but you'll always be the baby. Even as you get older according to the calen-



dar, as Mom told me yesterday, you are timeless. You'll always be my pipsqueak despite the fact that the years are flying by. No, we're not exploring potential careers or making plans for your wedding. We're still hoping that we'll be able to help you move from diapers to the potty someday. You live today the same way you did when you were about 18 months old. You don't speak and you only recognize a few words but oh the words that you know. Kisses and cookies! No matter how filled up you are, there's always room for a cookie or two. You don't understand when I ask you how your day was, but you become laser beam focused when you hear the crinkle of the wrapper on a package of something sweet. No matter how sweet that candy, it's still eclipsed by your genuinely sweet smile.

So many people live their lives asking

LETTER: PAGE 17

“WEATHER 101” WITH AL! SPRING IS HERE!

Al Kaprielian

VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

After a mild February, March saw a return to winter weather with cold temperatures and three large nor'easters. The first large nor'easter occurred on March 2nd. Cape Cod & the Islands saw winds greater than hurricane force. Hurricane force winds are 74 miles per hour and greater. During the first nor'easter, Wellfleet on outer Cape Cod had wind gusts to 97 miles per hour. Barnstable saw a 93 mile per hour wind gust. East Falmouth on upper Cape Cod had a wind gust to 92 miles per hour.

Nantucket had a wind gust to 90 miles per hour. Woods Hole had a wind gust to 88 miles per hour. Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard also had a wind gust to 88 miles per hour. In the Merrimack Valley, Lawrence had a wind gust to 59 miles per hour.

This storm produced more rain than snow, especially in eastern and southeastern MA. Western MA saw 9-12 inches of snow. With nor'easter number two, there was a lot more snow versus rain. The snow with this storm was heavy and wet for MA and also Rockingham County in SE NH. The heavy wet snow caused a tremendous amount of widespread power outages. The heavy wet snow built up on tree and power lines causing them to fall. The heavy wet snow also caused a tremendous amount of power outages in the Merrimack Valley.

During nor'easter number three, the following locations experienced blizzard conditions - Hyannis, Marshfield Falmouth MA, Boston, Plymouth MA and Newport RI. The third nor'easter produced a lot of

snow with some areas getting over two feet of snow. Unlike nor'easter number two, the snow was not as heavy and was more fluffy. Methuen saw 28.3 inches of snow with the third nor'easter - Andover 24.6 inches, Haverhill 24.3 inches and Dracut 27.3 inches. There were not as many power outages with nor'easter three due to the fluffier lighter texture to the snow. Southern NH got 23-28 inches of snow. These three large nor'easters were a result of the intensification of the jet stream and also the phasing of the northern and southern jet streams. The storm also gained intensity over the warmer ocean waters of the Gulf Stream. These three nor'easters also produced more coastal flooding and beach erosion for the New England coastline. A fourth coastal storm occurred, however, dry air at low and mid-levels of the atmosphere caused mainly light snow for our area. Over N.Y. City and New Jersey, this is the area that got a significant snowfall. This March was the fourth snowiest March on record for Boston.

This was the second snowiest March on record for Worcester. The last day of March ended on a quiet and mild trend with daytime temperatures in the 50 \s. What can we expect in April?

As we go through April, days will continue to get longer and this will result in warmer temps. by the end of the month. It has also snowed in April in past years. However, any snow that occurs melts quickly due to a higher sun angle. Next month we will recap April's weather and also take a look at what we can expect in the month of May. In the meantime, enjoy the start of spring and the longer hours of daylight.

Museum Square “Death Trap” Has City Leaders Attention

Residents of the Museum Square Apartments in Lawrence have long complained about the safety hazards in the public parking garage owned by the City of Lawrence, but managed – partially – by the owners of Museum Square.

Since 2010 The Valley Patriot has fielded complaints about concrete falling on cars and people, but the city never made it a priority to rectify the unsafe conditions in the garage.

On Monday, The Valley Patriot did a video tour of the crumbling garage when Museum Square tenant Mike Thibodeau was refused entry to his paid parking spot.

A Lawrence city employee told Thibodeau that there were no spots left in the garage, but when the Valley Patriot showed up filming live on Facebook, we found dozens of open spots including a top floor that was almost completely empty. “We pay for these spots as tenants of the Museum Square Apartments and hours before a snow storm they are telling us we can't park here?”

Thibideau was eventually allowed to park his car after he called 911 to say he was being ripped off.

A DEATH TRAP

While at the city owned garage, The Valley Patriot found (and recorded) deplorable conditions that were dangerous and in violation of multiple safety codes.

The Valley Patriot found; emergency exits that were chained, crumbling concrete falling from overhead beams on every floor of the garage, water pouring out of overhead beams and lakes

of water forming on every level, exposed electrical wiring, emergency exit signs that were not lit, holes in the concrete ground, a ten foot hole in the roof of the structure that was so dangerous the police had to use barriers to cordon it off because cars park on the top level of the garage, and more.

The Valley Patriot asked Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera why the garage is in such a dangerous state and how long people's safety will be in jeopardy before something is done. Rivera called us back in the middle of the Tuesday snow storm. (more below photos)

Museum Square resident Mike Thibodeau points to open wires and falling concrete

“It's complicated,” he said. Half the spots in the garage belong to the city and half belong to the owners of Museum Square that they rent out to their tenants. They are supposed to pay the city a portion of their profits.”

“They say they haven't made any money since they took over the garage, and I don't buy that. We've been fighting with them to get control of the lot. They wanted us to give the garage to them, just give it to them, before they would agree to fix anything. The fact is, I don't think most people know this but they give us absolutely no money from what they make over there.

Rivera said he and Museum Square resident Jackie Marmol walked through the garage two years ago and was appalled back then.

“We could spend a few million dollars

on that structure and probably have more to do. It hasn't been maintained.”

Rivera says that he and the city council have allocated \$100,000 in his capital improvement plan to begin repairs to the garage.

“The money is ready to be spent,” Rivera said.

“First we have a capital improvement management position to fill, that person will manage all capital improvement projects and that should happen in about 30 days. Museum Square will be at the top of his agenda. “

WILL COUNCIL CALL FOR AN AUDIT?

IMG_4798Lawrence City Councilor Jeovanny Rodriguez (District D) says he believes the city council should ask State Auditor Suzanne Bump to conduct an audit of the money that Boston Land Company is making on the garage.

“100% of the money being collected in parking revenue at that garage should go directly to the City of Lawrence,” he said, adding that he has doubts the garage isn't making money given that the City of Lawrence is paying for upkeep.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera said his team considered going to the Attorney General early in his first term because he believes the Boston Land Company wasn't being honest and there was no transparency from their side of the agreement.

“We wanted to bring in the AG to see if the private managers of the property were being honest about the actual revenues because they haven't given us a dime.”

Asked if he would support a call for State Auditor Suzanne Bump to audit the finances of the Museum Square Garage,



Museum Square resident Mike Thibodeau points to exposed wires in a parking garage which has water pouring from nearly every ceiling.

he said he would.

“I don't know if she will do it but, I would support Councilor Rodriguez if he does that. For now we are going to spend the \$100,000 to fix what we can and going forward we will be able to do more.”

Valley Patriot Readers Donate \$3,700 for Dan Coady Jr. Memorial Scholarship



Al Veilleux started the Dan Coady Jr. Memorial Scholarship for a student who attended Thomson Grammar School in North Andover where Dan Coady's children go to school now. To his right are Mike Memmola, Tasha Kinsman Ryan, and North Andover Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo also donated to the Coady scholarship.

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN, 1 MARKET ST, LAWRENCE.

Valley Patriot publisher told the attendees of the 14th Anniversary BASH how the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship came to be.

"As I said earlier, our good friend Al Veilleux donated \$300 to our scholarship for a Whittier Tech graduate this year, but when he came by with a check he said he wanted to start off a scholarship in memory of Dan Coady Jr. who was tragically killed last week on Route 495 working for Coady's Towing Company. So, he pulled out a check and gave us a check for \$500 to start a scholarship for a kid in Dan Coady's name.

So, I went on line and thanked Al Veilleux for his donation and as is always the case with Valley Patriot readers and supporters, you guys stepped up and said you wanted to give more. SO when all of that was done where people were trying to outbid each other on my Facebook page to donate to this scholarship – believe it or not we have never given away this much money at any BASH ever – as of this minute we have raised \$3,700 for the Dan Coady Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

Our first scholarship is going to go to somebody special, Camrey Adams for

\$1,000.

One of the things that Al Veilleux asked as a requirement for the recipient of this scholarship is that the student who wins should have gone to Thomson Grammar School because that's where Dan Coady's kids go now and someday maybe they will get this scholarship.



Camrey Adams attended Thomson Elementary School, the Kittredge Elementary, the Middle School and finally North Andover High School. She's a member of the Best Buddies Program, Special Olympics Basketball and Gymnastics, the North Andover Youth Center, and the High School Chorus.

She volunteers whenever possible behind the scenes at various NAHS events including this year's Mr. North Andover and Coffee House's, tutors a fellow special needs class and whenever possible helps her fellow special needs friends get to class and around school. She's dating one of her best friends, Will, with whom she's been friends with since 6th grade. She went from doing Alt-MCAS at NAMS to taking and passing the regular MCAS testing to qualify for graduation with her class of 2018!

Our second Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship winner is North Andover High



Jamie Plodzick and Camey Adams recipients of the 1st Dan Coady Jr. Memorial Scholarship with Pina Prinzivalli in the background.

Senior Jamie Plodzick for \$2,700.

Jamie is a senior at North Andover High, attended the Thomson and is very involved with community service, school events, and sports. She played volleyball and decided to change her athletic focus towards long distance running. She was indoor Track Captain this year for the girls team, has been part of the Cross Country and Track/Field Program for the past 3 years. Her main event is the 2 mile, in which she qualified for states this past winter with a personal record of 12:06.

She also was awarded MVP this year for Girls Cross Country.

Jamie says her interest in running led her to want to pursue an education in nutrition, dietetics and food sciences in order to become a registered dietitian. She has been involved in concert choir in high school all 4 years, has been a member of National Honors Society since her junior year and volunteers for the Special Olympics Basketball team. Jamie loves working with special needs kids, which makes her perfect for this scholarship as our first winner is a special needs student!

Last February, Jamie went on a week-long service trip to the Dominican Republic to volunteer at local environmental centers and a girl's recreation center. She is in AP Spanish and has been a student

chairperson for the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition for the past two years and helps organize events for it on the Cape and fundraise money. Jamie is deciding between the University of Vermont and Virginia Tech for a Nutrition/Dietetics major.

Tasha herself was in a terrible car accident a few years ago and almost didn't make it. She called us and said that the Coady Family was so good to her after her accident, driving her workers to and from work, and when she got out of the hospital Frank Coady, who had towed her car the night of the accident, didn't charge her for towing or storage while she was in the hospital. Tarsha says she wanted to give \$100 for each year since her accident so tonight she donated \$800.

Donating to this scholarship were: Myles and Patricia Burke \$100, Kevin Leach-Essex Education Foundation \$100, Marc DiSalvo \$100, Cynthia Aziz Kannan \$100, Francisco Paulino \$150, Martineau's Towing \$250, Al Veilleux \$500, Mike Buco and Sons Construction \$500, Joe Viel \$500, Mammola Electric \$500, Methuen City Councilor Jen Kannan \$100.00, and a special donation by Tasha Raye Kinsman Ryan of \$800 bringing our total to \$3,700 total for both of these scholarship recipients.

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Team Zingales/Century 21 Gives \$1K Scholarship

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN -
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Each year Joe Zingales and Rosanna Zingales-Lopez from Century 21 TEAM ZINGALES in Methuen donate at least \$1,000 for our Valley Patriot BASH Scholarships. This year they picked a superstar to receive this college scholarship, Christian Kinsley from Lawrence High School and a star basketball player.

Joe Zingales took the microphone at the bash and thanked Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan for his scholarship efforts every year during the BASH.

“My sister and I are proud to be here. I’m an immigrant from Sicily and my sister Rosanna was born here. When my father came here he resided in Lawrence and that’s where we grew up for 25 years. So, Lawrence has a special place in our heart because it gave us everything we have

today. So, it’s very important to me and my sister and Gisel and everyone at Century 21 Team Zingales to give back as much as we can. This year, we are proud to say our scholarship winner is a Lawrence High School senior who is dedicated, passionate, humble, a team 1st leader and always willing to sacrifice for the greater good.

Christian’s GPA is 3.0, he is taking advanced placement classes. He is a three year varsity and two year captain of the MV Champion Basketball team, he participated on the football and track teams as well as volunteering in many community activities like tutoring and reading to grammar school children, coaching and mentoring 7th and 8th graders at the Lawrence YMCA Smart Hoops Program.

Rosanna and I and everyone at Team Zingales are honored to give Christian Kinsley \$1,000 scholarship for college.”



Gisel Santiago, Joe Zingales, Rosanna Zingales Lopez of TEAM ZINGALES/CENTURY 21 present \$1,000 to Christian Kinsley of Lawrence High School

Police, Firefighter Win Public Safety Award

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN -
1 MARKET ST., LAWRENCE

Each year the Valley Patriot bestows awards to hero police officers and firefighters in the name of murdered Lawrence Police Officer Tom Duggan, Sr. This year’s recipients are; Lawrence Firefighter William Pagan, North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray, Lawrence Police Sgt. Mike Simard, and Lawrence Police Lt. James Raso.

LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM PAGAN: Firefighter Pagan: In the early morning hours on December 26, 2017 while on a weekend away on the Cape with his fiancé FF Pagan was awoken by screams from outside of his hotel window. He rushed to the balcony to see where the shouts were coming from and saw a man who had fallen into the water off the dock and was clinging to a rope from his boat. FF Pagan ran down through the office looking for help. A resort attendant came running out behind him. Together they rushed to the dock and were able to pull the man from the water by grabbing him by the arms and belt. They placed him on the dock. The man was extremely cold and could not feel his extremities. The attendant ran back to call 911 while FF Pagan jumped in the man’s boat and grabbed some blankets and began warming the man up. The very quick actions by FF Pagan and the hotel attendant surely saved this man’s life.

Additionally FF Pagan and FF Juan Gonzalez started a relief effort to help the

victims of the storm ravaged island nation of Puerto Rico. “Firefighter’s United for Puerto Rico” came to be. Through their efforts, and the selfless efforts of the community, they were able to gather water, clothing, flashlights, food, batteries, money and basically anything people could donate to help out. The community did not let them down. Donations poured in and they needed to find storage for all the products. The owners of the Everett Mill were able to provide them a unit to store everything. Then they had to find a way to get it down there. They were able to work out a plan with Jet Blue to have everything delivered. They both went down to personally see that the items donated were being distributed properly and they wanted to be there first hand to help out any way they possibly could. Their efforts provided a bit of relief for families that were devastated by these terrible storms. More importantly they showed how a little hard work for a good cause can make a difference in people’s lives.

Tonight we are ALL Proud to be here in the room to congratulate Firefighter William Pagan.



Lawrence Police Lt. James Raso, Sgt. Mike Simard, North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray, Lawrence Firefighter Ignacio Rodriguez, Lawrence Firefighter William Pagan and Lawrence Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Loughlin.

CHIEF CHARLES GRAY: Chief Charles Gray started his career in 2001 as a patrol officer. He became a K9 officer in 2005 with his first K9 partner Eiko and re-established the K9 program in North Andover. After the untimely passing of Eiko, Gray attended a second K9 academy with his new partner Kyzer, whom he was partnered with for over 8 years and had many calls for service. Gray was promoted to Sergeant and soon after became the training officer for the department. As a K9 Sergeant, Gray was always a proactive police officer and engaged in the community.

Chuck Gray was promoted to Lieutenant in 2011 and assumed command of the Criminal Investigation and School Safety division. He engaged the fire department and school departments in unified training after school related tragedies across the nation. He was promoted to Chief in 2016.

Throughout this time Chief Gray has been active in the NA Booster Club and was president from 2015-2017. Chief Gray is raising his 3 boys in North Andover. They attend North Andover public schools and are active in the community as well.

Duggan recounted the first time he saw officer Gray make an arrest years ago, “I say Chuck Gray is a “cop’s cop” because I’ve seen him in action and he’s the kind of cop that other cops hope will show up when they need backup. The first time I saw Chuck Gray he was on Waverly Road, I think, a few years ago. He was trying to arrest a man when the suspect threw a swing at him. He was alone and had no idea anyone was watching him. As he wrestled with the guy on the ground, he eventually was able to get the handcuffs on him and when he did, he picked the guy up, brushed him off, and put him into the police cruiser. I thought ‘wow, it’s like watching my father

all over again when I was a kid.’ If that had been me, I might have taken an extra swing at the guy, he certainly deserved it. But, Gray is a professional from the word “go” even when he thinks nobody is watching.

Chief Gray we are proud of not only the North Andover Police Department, but as a North Andover resident myself I can say you make us all proud to have a cop’s cop as the chief of police. So, tonight, I am proud to present the Officer Tom Duggan Public Safety Award to North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray.

LAWRENCE POLICE SGT. MIKE SIMARD – Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan introduced Lawrence Police Lt. James Raso to tell the audience why Sgt. Mike Simard is receiving the award this year.

“I’ve known Mike Simard since 1996, we went to the academy together with Billy Scanlon.

He’s a lifelong resident of Lawrence and grew up in the Beacon Projects. We’ve worked patrol for the last 25 years together and over that time he started the Lawrence Police Explorers Program together. He’s given a lot back to the community. He was instrumental in the massive insurance fraud [arrests] in 2002 but in 2010 that was taken away from him due to an administration issue. He’s back on the program where Sgt. Simard was instrumental in making 435 arrests, and there were seven doctors involved.”

“Mike is active down at Lazarus House (homeless shelter) and he does a lot of volunteer work, his heart’s really in the right place. He’s also an Air Force veteran; he’s very proud of that.”

Tom Duggan said he appreciated that Sgt. Simard is the only officer who still stands

DUGGAN AWARD: PAGE 27

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THANK YOU to all of the people who donated their services so that our Valley Patriot 14th Anniversary BASH would be our biggest success ever. Emcee: Toni Wakester, Veteran, Law Enforcement officer, The Lawrence Firefighters Relief's In for donating the hall, Bell-Air Music Productions Rick Bellanti who donated his DJ and lighting services (978) 902-7041, Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli for donating dessert, Mike Agricola of Salvatore's Restaurant for donating dinner, Sahtaine Restaurant for donating the Hummus and pita, Henry's Jewelry and Awards for charging us their cost for the awards (978) 686-1012, Bob Wescott at Copilabs, 49 Methuen Street. Lawrence (978) 794-1413 for donating the programs. Keith Wlo-dyka of the Daily Dose Cafe for donating the coffee and pastries. Daryl Silva and Johnny Joyce for donating their talents, and everyone on the Valley Patriot BASH Committee.

BASH RAFFLE DONORS – Thank you to everyone who donated raffle items to the Valley Patriot's 14th Anniversary BASH. Jane Lydick Staid, Kelley's Discount Furniture, Corey Willis/ Corey Tree & Landscape LLC, Dave Sullivan, Pete Edgerly, Lisa Knight, Elizabeth Ford, Juana Matias, Brenda Rozzi, Denise Donlin, Two Guys Smokeshop, Juanita Saldana, Academy Lanes in Haverhill, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Paine, The Chateau Restaurant, Photographer Derrick Feole, George Peters, Dawn's Sign Tech Inc., Stephanie DeSantis, Acting Chief Roy Vasque & Mary Kate Vasque, Ira Keltz, Jim Rappaport and Rick Green, Dan Ravenport, John Felci, Keith Wlo-dyka, Rich Russell, Michael Thibodeau, , Myles & Patricia Burke.

SENATOR IVES NOT SEEKING REELECTION, DIZOGLIO STEPS IN – State Senator Katy Ives has announced she is not seeking reelection this year. Ives was the senator who sponsored, fought for, and got passed my public records bill a few years ago. She is the recipient of the Valley Patriot's 1st Amendment Award for her efforts to have public records released to the public and punishing public officials who conceal them. "I know I've worked hard, made a contribution and helped people," Ives said, "and now it's time for me to start a new chapter. ... And now, at the conclusion of this term, that time will be spoken for by a lovely and demanding toddler. So, in many ways, I'm disappointed to leave the Senate, but in my heart I know it's the right thing to do."

I am going to miss Katy in the Senate. She was an independent voice and didn't just vote the way her party wanted her to. I hope Katy comes back and runs again someday. She is a good and honest person, and you don't find that too often in this business.

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



Download the Paying Attention Podcast on iTunes, Spotify, iHeartradio, Googleplay, YouTube, and Podbean and stay informed! For \$300 a month you can have your business card printed in The Valley Patriot newspaper AND be a sponsor of the Paying Attention Podcast! Let us promote your business, email us at; valleypatriot@aol.com

DIZOGLIO TO REPLACE IVES? - State Rep. Diana DiZoglio wasted no time declaring herself a candidate to replace Katy Ives in the senate and she was immediately seen as a viable candidate getting the endorsement of the vast majority of elected officials in the district. DiZoglio sponsored my public records bill in the House, and fought to get it passed when other Democrats were trying to water it down. She doesn't get involved in the petty, left-wing politics that permeates the state house, and showed last month that she couldn't care less about pleasing the leadership of her party by exposing the good old boy network on Beacon Hill. As of the time we went to print, there were no other candidates opposing DiZoglio.

LISA FERRY STEPS IN FOR REP. – With DiZoglio running for state senate to replace Katy Ives, that leaves her seat in the House of Representatives open. DiZoglio currently represents Methuen, Lawrence, North Andover and Haverhill. Former Methuen Central District Councilor Lisa Ferry - who works for Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini - has taken out nomination papers for that seat. So has newcomer Christina Minicucci.

NORTH ANDOVER RETURNS INCUMBENTS – Last month the Town of North Andover held their annual town elections. Voters returned "Phil of the Future" Phil DeCologero and Dick Vaillencout to the board of selectmen and also returned Mark DiSalvo as the town moderator. Dave Torrisi and Andrew McDevitt were also reelected to the school committee.

HAVERHILL POLICE STATION WORK TO BEGIN.... 20 YEARS LATER - Finally after some 20 plus years, it looks

like the Haverhill Police Station is going to get the repairs it needs. We ought to be able to give a full report next month on the progress of this project.

METHUEN EXCHANGE TURNS 35! This month the Methuen Exchange Club turns 35 years old and the members of the Methuen Exchange are holding a dinner in celebration of such a monumental occasion at Lenzi's Restaurant on Thursday April 19th at 6pm.

2018 ESSEX HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS - Amesbury - Lowell's Boat Shop in Amesbury, will be carrying out urgent and emergency projects including the structural repair, stabilization, and shoring of facility footings and foundation piers, which are being eroded and causing the building to sag. Funding from the Essex Heritage grant program will enable Lowell's Boat Shop to construct a proper footing that would mitigate erosion and allow them to slowly return the structure back to level and set it on a foundation pier that will be permanently stable.

Andover Historical Society - Based on a successful 2017 pilot program intended to augment a lack of local history in the school curriculum until 3rd grade or even high school, Andover Historical Society will be offering "Discovering my Neighborhood," in which students will examine objects, photographs, and maps that tell the story of their neighborhood and the town. Students will be able to consider how Andover has changed, how it stayed the same, and how it might change in the future. The program will be tailored to each neighborhood, the historical development of Andover being reflected in its five school districts.

Lawrence- Bread and Roses Heritage Committee, Inc. - Taking place Sept. 3rd in the historic Campagne Common, Partnership Grant funding will be used to make possible The Bread and Roses Labor Day Heritage Festival, a unique event commemorating the Great Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912, now known world-wide as the Bread and Roses Strike. The free, family-oriented event that hosts the city's many community organizations, educational workshops, and discussions on historical and contemporary issues aims to bridge

the relationship between the immigrants of the past and present by revealing common struggle through music, theater, dance, food, art, historical tours, presentations, and family activities. Historical interpretation occurs through guided trolley tours, walking tours, at talks and discussions at the Lawrence History Live! tent, and by exhibitors in our History and Labor area.

LAWRENCE LIONS CLUB – Thank you to the Lawrence Lions Club for donating \$100 to the South Lawrence East Little League at the Valley Patriot BASH! The Lions Club is a civic organization that gives free eye screenings and raises money for poor people who need glasses or eye surgery.

\$1,000 DONOR EUGENE SMITH – This year the Valley Patriot's friend Eugene Smith from the Lawrence Lions Club donated \$1,000 to our JrROTC Lawrence High Scholarship Winner Darlene Santos. Smith, a U.S. Army veteran runs a non-profit called Military Connections. He came to us about a month before the BASH and said he wanted to donate the money to a JrROTC Student at Lawrence High who really needed it. This touched off a domino effect which resulted in Valley Patriot readers donating a total of \$3,300 to this scholarship. THANK YOU EUGENE and everyone who contributed!

JOE AND ROSANNA ZINGALES – Each year Joe and Rosanna Zingales from Team Zingales/Century 21 donate \$1,000 to a student from the Lawrence Boy's Club or the Lawrence YMCA. This year they did it again. Thank you, Joe and Rosanna.

MARKEY'S AND BROWN'S – Last year Brown's Lobster Pound suffered a devastating fire and also a devastating flood. We are thrilled to see that Brown's is back open for business this spring, but we also wanted to remind everyone how wonderful the people are Markey's were when Brown's was having troubles. You see, the people at Markey's, right across the street, let the people at Brown's use their facility to stay in business last year towards the end of the summer. While some competing businesses would take advantage of the situation to boost sales, Markey's showed warmth and compassion for their longtime rivals and it should not be forgotten by their customers.

PAYING ATTENTION PODCAST GETS 18,000 – In the first three months of the Paying Attention Podcast we had more than 18,000 people download and listen to the show. Taped at Studio 21 Podcast Café, Paying Attention is taped live on Thursdays at 2pm. To sponsor the show is only \$50 a week. Email us at valleypatriot@aol.com.

KELLEY'S FURNITURE STEPPING UP! Kelley's Furniture in Lawrence donated a power recliner for our Valley Patriot BASH raffle to benefit Veteran's Northeast Outreach in Haverhill. When they found out the recliner was won by a senior citizen they offered to have it delivered for FREE!

REGISTRY OF DEEDS CANDIDATES – Lawrence's M. Paul Iannuccillo, the Essex County Registrar of Deeds has some competition for his reelection. The Registrar of Deeds is in charge of all real estate transactions in this section of Essex County. Alexcy Vega who works in the

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE



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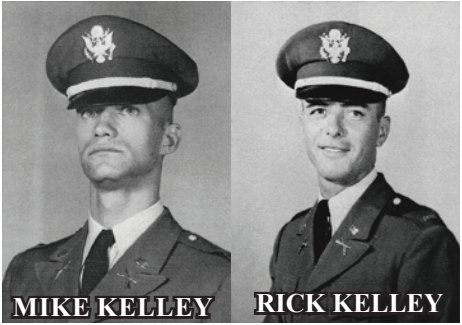
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Lawrence City Assessor’s office joins former Lawrence City Councilor Mike Fielding to challenge Iannuccillo. Iannuccillo is a former City Councilor, and a former State Representative and knows how to campaign. He is also a staple at local political events in the Valley. This is a race to keep your eye on. While most people don’t know or care what a registrar of deeds is, the smooth operation of that office is critical for all real estate transactions in the area.

CORRECTION: The Official U.S. Army Website for OCS 66-01; has Richard T Kelley’s photo, on Michael Kelly’s bio, and vice versa. These are the Official U.S. Army OCS Class 1-66 Photos.



The photo (from the US Army) marked M. Kelly is actually Andover’s Rick Kelley, who was the subject of John Cuddy’s first article. The photo (also from the U.S. Army) marked R. Kelley is actually his roommate at OCS Mike Kelly.

JOE ESPINOLA ANNOUNCES FOR STATE SENATE – Retired Lowell Police Officer Joe Espinola announced last month that he’s running for the state senate seat being vacated by Barbara L’Italien –who is leaving to run for congress. Espinola is a member of the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee, is running as a Republican, and says he wants to make public safety a top priority. He also says he is tired of the legislature looking to raise taxes as a first option. He was the district director of the Donald Trump for president campaign. We want to thank Joe for donating to our BASH this year and for always supporting The Valley Patriot. We called Barry Finegold to see if he wanted to contribute to our scholarships this year but ... he didn’t.

WAY TO GO JIM BOLAND - Jim Boland, owner of the four Fuddruckers restaurants in Massachusetts, including those in North Andover and Methuen, delivered 38 stuffed bunnies and gift cards to children on the pediatric floors of Mass General Hospital just prior to Easter this

year. As a side note, my daughter Justess says Fuddruckers’s is her absolute favorite place to go for lunch. She drives down from Manchester NH to the Fuddruckers’s on Rt. 28 in Methuen.

RIVERWALK DENTAL JOINS CLEAN RIVER PROJECT TO HELP CLEAN MERRIMACK - Riverwalk Dental, located in the heart of the Merrimack Valley in Lawrence Massachusetts, joins Rocky Morrison, a patient of Riverwalk Dental, in his quest to clean up the Merrimack River. The effort, dubbed the “Clean River Project,” started in 2005 and continues today. “The effort Rocky and his family have put into this project inspired the team at Riverwalk Dental to get involved” stated Dr. Joseph Beninato, partner at Riverwalk Dental. “We believe in giving back to the community and what better way to do that than to help make the Merrimack River a great clean and safe place for everyone.”

The Clean River Project presently needs to buy equipment to continue effectively making a difference in cleaning the Merrimack River. Specifically, the team wishes to purchase a conveyor belt boat which quickly, efficiently and safely grabs and removes debris from the water. Over the last thirteen years, hundreds of tires, nearly 100 cars, and countless needles are among some of the major pollutants removed by the Clean River Project over the years. Although such progress has made a huge difference to the area, much more needs to be done.

“Everyone benefits from the efforts put forth by Rocky and his team. We are proud to be a part of such an amazing group of people doing the right thing for the children and families throughout the Merrimack Valley area” stated Dr. Beninato.

Riverwalk Dental is collecting donations at their office located at 354 Merrimack Street, Suite 334 Lawrence MA 01843. Patients and members of the community are encouraged to help us help the Clean River Project achieve its goal to acquire a conveyor belt boat. 100% of all proceeds go to the project.

2018 OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF FAMILY BUSINESS NAMED!

Twelve Massachusetts family business leaders have been named an Outstanding Woman of Family Business by The Warren Group editorial board. The Outstanding Women Award is an annual award that honors the achievements, commitment, and dedication of female family business professionals who demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment both within their businesses and in the communities they serve.

Trudy Lawler, President of A.P Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc has been named as one of this year’s recipients. Trudy is the owner of Michaud Insurance Agency, a third generation family business, is a deserving recipient due to the hard work she has put into the growth of her business but also for her leadership within the Merrimack Valley.

“Once again, we’re excited to recognize and honor the hard work and dedication of this year’s recipients of the Outstanding Women of Family Business Award,” said Timothy M. Warren Jr., CEO of The Warren Group. “Each woman exudes generosity, innovation, as well as grit.”

The 2018 Outstanding Women of Family Business Award Recipients are: Patricia Day, Owner, Needham Children’s Center, Pamela Donnaruma, Publisher & Editor, Post-Gazette, The Italian American Newspaper, Established 1896, Natalie Fernsenber, Co-owner, Atlas Liquors, Karen Fish-Will, Principal & CEO, Peabody Properties, Inc., Melissa Fish-Crane, Principal & COO, Peabody Properties, Inc., Laurie Ingwersen, Managing Partner & Senior Wealth Management Advisor, The Harvest Group Wealth Management, LLC, Molly Kellogg, President/CEO,

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 27

Jana DiNatale & Turtle Boy Sports
Win 1st Amendment Award

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF’S IN -
1 MARKET ST, LAWRENCE

Each year at the annual Valley Patriot BASH, The Valley Patriot bestows two awards to those who fight for our 1st Amendment right of free speech or a free press. Previous winners include State Auditor Suzanne Bump, State Senator Katy Ives, State Rep. Diana DiZoglio, and Dr. Padmanabhan.

This year our 1st Amendment award was given to Methuen School Committee member Jana DiNatale.

Last year, DiNatale exposed an illegal meeting of the Methuen School Committee where the superintendent and school committee lied to the public by stating that they were going into a secret back door meeting (called executive session) for the purposes of discussing a lawsuit against the schools. But, when the committee was out of view of the public they didn’t discuss litigation at all. They ganged up on DiNatale for daring to take a survey on-line, asking parents what they thought about kids from Lawrence attending the Methuen Public Schools. A subject that the administration clearly didn’t want discussed in public. What’s worse, when

the school committee released the minutes (a public accounting of what was discussed) of that illegal secret meeting they tried to deceive the public by pretending “litigation” was discussed instead of being honest about the personal and inappropriate nature of what was discussed. DiNatale forced them to change the meeting minutes and exposed the actions of her colleagues at great political expense. So, this year we are pleased to announce Jana DiNatale as the winner of our first, 1st Amendment Award.

TURTLE BOY SPORTS

Here at The Valley Patriot we are 100% pro-cop. They are heroes and we honor their service every chance we get. And we give them the benefit of the doubt when-



ever there is a benefit of doubt to give. But, we are also 100% against bad cops, crooked cops, cops who work ‘off book’ or use back channels to cover up misdeeds and betray the public trust.

Turtle Boy Sports has been able to do in a few short months what decades of politicians have promised us they would do but have never delivered - rooting out corruption among the vast majority of good cops in the ranks of the state police. They



have been targeted by Facebook and other social media sites just as we have here at The Valley Patriot. They are fighting for our right of free speech and a free press and they are doing an amazing job.

Because of Turtle Boy’s efforts to expose corruption in the state police, the Colonel of the State Police had to resign, and since then a dozen

others had to take early retirement, resigned, or were disciplined because of betrayal of public trust.

Turtle Boy Sports has done more for the first amendment in the last few months than all of the Boston media has in the last 30 years. So, this year we are proud, so proud, to give a 1st Amendment award to Turtle Boy Sports!

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Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

The Lawrence Ordinance Committee, consisting of Councilors Reyes, Rodriguez, De La Cruz and Levy, only met twice during the first three months of this year. They met once in January and again on March 1. The one regularly scheduled meeting in February and two other March meetings were cancelled. At the January meeting all members were not present so they couldn't elect officers.

All members were present at their meeting in March. Councilor Reyes was elected to be chair, but they couldn't manage to choose a vice chair. Councilor Rodriguez nominated both other members of the committee for the position, but couldn't get a second. Neither Levy nor De La Cruz nominated anyone, so If the committee ever meets again and all members are present I suppose they'll try once more.

By my count, the committee has at least 50 new items on their next agenda and who knows how many already in progress. Most of these require an involved party to be present. These poor people will have to be at the council chambers at 7pm waiting until the wee hours to have their items discussed.

In the midst of all of this, Councilor at Large Levy has given the committee some very important things to discuss. She's put items on the agenda to give the councilors identification cards and special parking permits. I suppose they'll get some free food, drinks, and dry cleaning out of this. And it can't hurt to have a councilor's ID to casually flip by if you're ever in a bind.

This is just something else to make them feel important. I have an idea, why not feel important by attending committee meetings and doing your job? I'm sure members of the Ordinance Committee had great excuses for cancelling three meetings, but I'm looking for politicians who come to the meetings even if they have a great excuse for being absent. In our city that's like looking for stubble in a fallow field.

President Trump was in New Hampshire last month talking about the opi-

oid crisis, intimating that our great city may not be all that great. Mayor Rivera couldn't wait to put a video response up on YouTube. I guess the local TV stations weren't quick enough for him.

Rivera didn't say a word about drug dealers except to say the death penalty wouldn't work. He chided people for being afraid of "Bogeymen" coming across the border. Is he forgetting that most opioids come across the border? He wants the illegal immigrants, so he'll take the drugs. He's hard at work protecting us.

What would work, you ask? Mayor Rivera says the only solution is serious tax dollars for long term treatment. Note how the politicians' optimal solution always involves large quantities of our money that they get to distribute to the non-profits, thereby rewarding and cultivating donors. Money to distribute equals power.

What power would the local or state politician get out of stopping the flow of drugs into the country? The answer is none. They also wouldn't get the free publicity. Think about it. The opioid crisis, or any crisis, is a good thing for most politicians. It increases their power and influence.

The Licensing Board meeting where changing last call procedures at city clubs was scheduled to be discussed was abruptly cancelled for no stated reason. Rumor has it that word came down from somewhere on high. We all know what that means. Some politician is now wrestling with the question: Should I do what's best for club owners or our residents? It appears the club owners are winning.

On one of my trips to the Market Basket on route 114, I decided to buy a scratch ticket. As I was walking toward the machine, I noticed a couple hanging out there. They were talking about not having an ID to scan, the woman encouraging her friend to see if his green card would work.

I really wanted that scratch ticket, so against my better judgement I walked up to the machine and bought my tickets. After my purchase, the woman wondered to her friend if the "nice lady" would scan in her ID for them. Needless to say, their opinion of me changed. But I keep wondering, does a green card work?



Valley Patriot Readers Donate \$1,000 To Whittier Scholarship Winner Sean Runge

FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF'S IN -
1 MARKET, LAWRENCE

State Representative Lenny Mirra from West Newbury called the Valley Patriot last month to say that he wanted to donate part of his legislative pay raise to our first ever Whittier Tech. Scholarship at the Valley Patriot 14th Anniversary Bash!

First, Mirra said he wanted to donate \$250 to our scholarship program, but when he found out we were going to use his donation for a graduating senior from Whittier Tech. he doubled that donation to \$500. With donations from Alan Potvin and Vietnam Veteran Rich Russell, we were \$300 short of our goal to raise \$1,000 for this scholarship. Minutes after posting that we were short of our goal, Whittier Tech. Alum Al Veilleux called to say he wanted to close that gap and donated \$300.

During the BASH Rep. Mirra announced the winner as Lawrence resident Sean

Runge, a senior studying Electrical Technology at Whittier Tech.

Sean was named a Commended Student in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program and is at the top of his class.

He plans on going to UMass Lowell to study Chemical Engineering and is considering pursuing a medical degree. He is active in his church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. His interests include history and politics. Sean also donated his time two years in a row selling raffle tickets here at the Valley Patriot's 12th and 13th Anniversary BASH!

"We couldn't think of a more deserving student to receive this scholarship," Mirra said. "We wish you luck in school and we hope you will come back and cheer on next year's scholarship winner."

Thank you to Alan Potvin, Rich Russell, Al Veilleux, and State Rep. Lenny Mirra for making a difference in this young man's future.



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Phil Thibault Can't Just Walk Away Now

Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

There's nothing more swamp-like than Dracut politics. Our town keeps living up to its reputation for local politics that is personal and putrid. The current race for the Board of Selectmen is no exception, sadly.

Again this year, the nothing-to-offer negative voices are the Dracut Connection cable TV show and a fake Facebook account using the name John Lynch Cross. Both use their platforms to push their political candidates and causes. Both attack town citizens and anyone who dares to disagree with them. Both have something else in common, too: supporting four-time loser Phil Thibault and trying to smear his opponent.

It's no different in this election. Just like three years ago, Phil Thibault's opponent, incumbent Selectman Joe DiRocco, is the target of election-season attacks that have nothing to do with town issues. Ditto for the third candidate, John Joyce, who has been under fire non-stop from the moment he pulled papers to run for the seat. This is the ugly underbelly of politics in Dracut: it's not about the issues, it's about personal destruction.

It's the exact reason good people don't run for political office in town. Or open a business here. Or get involved.

And that's exactly what I told Phil Thibault when he had the misfortune – for him – of coming to the Dracut Republican Town Committee meeting in March to ask for the support of our members. I was one of several who let him know that I wasn't interested in supporting him and why. It was a long list, including making political donations to Democrat Colleen Garry, supporting the last proposed Proposition 2 ½ overrides and other issues.

At the top of that list from me and other members was Phil Thibault's long-standing association with the Dracut Connection and the vicious attack those associated with it have launched, including that fake profile. Phil Thibault got an earful about that disgusting cable show – and he deserved it. His face was beet red – and it should have been, sadly.

Two days after the DRTC meeting, things blew up. The fake profile John Lynch Cross personally attacked a well-known and well-liked private citizen (an absolutely wonderful woman!) in a vile Facebook comment. And it set off a huge backlash. That comment was the final straw for many good people who've seen too many good people in town get trashed online by this phony baloney.

In response to the comment and rumors swirling about the true identity of John Lynch Cross, Saturday Morning Live, the radio show hosted by Warren Shaw on WCAP, posted on its Facebook page:

“What we know for sure about this monster is that he does not post this garbage on his own FB page he does it on the DRACUT CONNECTION FB page. So the responsibility for the content falls on the Dracut Connection and any law suits would be directed at them as they take ownership for this garbage when they allow it on their site. These folks have been spinning garbage and libelous content directed at people they don't like for years. It needs to end and we all need to do our part... We need to tell all of the folks that appear on their cable show and the folks that are supported by them politically and the current public officials that are their friends, that we will not vote for them.”

Phil Thibault apparently got the message, finally. He posted a statement on The Real Forum for Dracut:

“There are those standing in the wings on both sides of the stage of this election, sniping back and forth with personal attacks. I have striven to make this election issues based and it is turning into circus. I will be the adult in the room and say what needs to be said. ‘Knock it off.’ This is not behavior I condone nor want. The people of Dracut deserve better leadership than what they have had in the past.”

Let's keep this real, Phil: The personal attacks are only coming from one side – yours. It's the Dracut Connection and the fake profile causing all the problems. No one and nothing else.

And talk about pathetically convenient timing. Here we are, about a month before Phil Thibault's fifth attempt to win town office, and now he's suddenly wearing his big-boy pants. What about all the years Phil Thibault was an active participant in that circus? What about all the weeks Phil Thibault sat on the same stage with these people, grinning and nodding his head in agreement? What about the nights Phil Thibault just sat there silently, instead of speaking up, when good people were being trashed?

Do I think Phil Thibault is a bad guy? No. Do I think Phil Thibault is the type of leader Dracut deserves? No. Do I think Phil Thibault can erase years of his behavior with one Facebook post? No.

Phil Thibault is guilty by association. His “knock it off” is just too little. And it's way too late, sadly.

Brian Genest is a member of the Dracut Republican Town Committee. A marketing and communications expert with 20 years of success driving growth, maximizing ROI and boosting profits for consumer and high-tech brands, he has developed and executed strategic initiatives for a range of disruptive technologies, including robots, mobile commerce solutions and SaaS products. Earlier in his career, Genest worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for the Dracut Dispatch, Derry News and Billerica Minuteman.

Methuen Has a Spending Problem Not a Revenue Problem

D.J. Deeb
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

City officials in Methuen are now working diligently to prepare and recommend a budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. In analyzing city spending over the past several years, it is clear to me that the City of Methuen has a spending problem, not a revenue problem, as some city officials suggest. This is not meant to be a criticism of our many dedicated and hardworking city officials, but the fact remains that spending needs to be reined in and the residential and commercial tax rates need to be lowered in order to retain residents, attract new businesses, control housing growth, and create new jobs.

Last year, the School Department was the only major department in the city to reduce its operating budget. It cut its operating expenses by 2 percent. The School Department did receive a 3 percent increase in funding the year before mostly to cover mandated services. It should be noted that 81% of school districts in the Commonwealth spend above state-mandated Foundation levels for their school systems. Historically, the City of Methuen has spent at or below Foundation levels.

In contrast, the Police Department saw an increase of 3.2 percent (9 percent in FY 2017), the Fire Department received an increase of 1.5 percent (9 percent in FY 2017), and the Department of Public Works (DPW) saw an increase of 5 percent (6.5 percent in FY 2017). It should be noted that the School Department must pay Chargebacks to the city based on a percentage of spending by the other city departments, including Police, Fire, and DPW.

Many homeowners who received their property tax bills in January have been

rightly complaining publicly and on social media about the increases to their tax bills. In Methuen, the residential tax rate was lowered to \$14.27 per \$1,000 assessed value for 2018 from \$14.65 per \$1,000 assessed value in 2017, but the average value of a single-family home increased by 6 percent. The average homeowner can expect to pay over \$150 more per year in taxes. This increase is much higher for many who have homes valued at over \$220,000. The previous City Council also voted to increase the commercial tax rate by 3 percent to \$28.10 in FY 2018 from \$27.17 in FY 2017. Kudos to Councilors Kannan and Vidler for voting against these tax increases in December. There is broad consensus on the need to attract new businesses to Methuen, but the current business tax rate makes that task very difficult. This is especially true given that the commercial property tax rate in neighboring Salem, New Hampshire is only \$20.84 per \$1,000 assessment.

Methuen certainly does not have a problem generating revenue from property taxes. In FY 2014, \$71,289,005 was seen. In FY 2015, the city raised \$75,096,643. Finally, in FY 2016, the last year for which data is fully available, the city generated \$79,380,338. This amounts to an increase of 5.4 percent and 5.7 percent respectively. These numbers can obviously be attributed to rising property values and assessments.

According to the FY 2018 budget, the city filled 13 non-civil service municipal positions, hired 10 new firefighters and 3 reserve firefighters, hired 3 new police officers and 9 reserve officers. There were 23 new hires in FY 2016 and 26 new hires in FY 2017. In addition, the number of

METHUEN PAGE 26




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BIG HEART - Merrimack Valley Credit Union announced Someone Cares Package Party organizer Deborah Carberry of Lawrence, Mass. (far right) won the Community Leader category for the Biggest Heart Awards, which celebrates community members for promoting kindness and public service. Merrimack Valley Credit Union donated \$500 to the Daybreak Shelter run by the Psychological Center on Carberry's behalf. Pictured above (from left to right), Peter Matthews, President and CEO of Merrimack Valley Credit Union, presents a check to Carina Pappalardo from the Daybreak Shelter. Also winning a Big Heart Award were; Coach: Bill and Pam Bryant of Methuen, First Responder: Detective Sergeant Heather Riley of Haverhill, Home Chef: Don Herook of Haverhill, Mentor of the Arts: Andrea Liacos of Gloucester, Caregiver: Linda Aubin of Salem, N.H., Teacher: Colonel Howell Steadman of Hampstead, N.H. Veteran: Shannon Lynch of Haverhill.

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State Officials Protect The Big Swamp From The Law

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

People on food stamps are the lowest rung on the economic ladder, people who need charity just to eat. Going after poor people helps bureaucrats pretend they care about taxpayers. By targeting people on assistance, the state auditor's office fools everyone by deflecting attention from its refusal to audit high crimes by the 'elite' reptiles in control of the Massachusetts swamp.

This week the state auditor's office preened itself on identifying \$10.7 million of Medicaid fraud. In absolute terms this \$10.7 million is a hill of beans given that we lose \$4 billion annually to healthcare fraud nationally. Given that Massachusetts' fiscal 2018 healthcare budget is \$21.7 billion, this \$10.7 million is a convenient farce. Almost a rounding error at 0.049% of annual state health costs and 0.27% of the annual national fraud.

The auditor's enabling statute, MGL ch. 11 § 12, declares:

"Section 12. The department of the state auditor shall audit the accounts, programs, activities and functions directly related to the aforementioned accounts of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities of the commonwealth, including those of districts and authorities created by the general court and including those of the income tax division of the department of revenue." Note it says SHALL, not may if you feel like it.

The state auditor's office goes after poor people to conceal the fact that the vast majority of our 'departments, offices, commissions, institutions and activities' go totally unaudited. As a matter of common sense, where do you think the vast majority of the money disappears? Naturally we didn't hear about the invisible State Police salaries from the state auditor either.

For three years now Dr. Michael Langan and I have been trying to get the state auditor's office to audit the state medical board and its illegal kickback relationship with the Massachusetts Medical Society. This effort involved emails and meetings in person with Deputy Auditor Ken Woodland and with Director William Keefe, who is with the Bureau of Special Investigations and allegedly the point person to combat white collar crime. As with everything to do with state government, reality is a bummer.

Dr. Langan presented Keefe with hard evidence that showed Board lawyer Robert Harvey fabricated a false document to serve as a pretext for suspending a doctor's

license as punishment for refusing to pay extortion money to the medical society. A classic protection racket with license suspension as the Board's form of breaking the victim's leg. At a minimum it was Keefe's duty to report Harvey to the SJC's Bar Overseers for violating its Rules on Professional Conduct. Keefe did not.

Dr. Langan presented Keefe with hard evidence that showed Asst. AG Bryan Bertram consciously lied to the court and concealed evidence of forensic fraud and obstruction. Exactly like the state lawyers did in the Sonja Farak case. At a minimum it was Keefe's duty to report Bertram to the SJC's Bar Overseers for violating the Rules and obstructing justice. He did not.

Dr. Langan presented Keefe with hard evidence that showed a long-running procurement fraud and kickback scheme between the medical society and Board lawyers that involved hundreds of thousands of dollars. It has been three years and the auditors have refused to audit, let alone report crime.

Two years ago I presented Deputy Auditor Woodland in person with documents showing the renting out of the Board by its lawyers to other doctors in order to 'take out' their competition. I also gave him documents showing the parking of tax dollars by the Board in a private foundation invisible to the public. A secret slush fund.

Here is Keefe's response today (4/4/18): "Sir, As Ken and I have discussed with you and Michael, we will be looking into your concerns when we audit the agency. Bill Keefe." So, when I report a crime, it is merely 'my concern.'

It is very difficult to collect the documentary evidence but Dr. Langan has done it. And the auditors are angry because now they cannot say they do not know.

Henry Morgenthau proved that everyone at the State Dept. knew about the holocaust as it was unfolding and concealed the facts to avoid public pressure to save the Jews. Everyone at the state auditor's office is no better.

The auditors know that these crimes by Board lawyers and the medical society caused numerous doctors to commit suicide in the prime of their life. These suicides occurred because the state auditor knew about the crimes and ongoing deaths of despair and did nothing. Same as the diplomats at State during the holocaust.

(Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a multiple sclerosis neurologist. On July 12, 2017 the state medical board stole his license because he reported Medicaid fraud to the government. scleroplex@gmail.com)

BENEATH THE SURFACE

"He's in a Better Place Now"

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

What is Truth?

The words of Pontius Pilate on Good Friday recorded in John 18:38 echo through the centuries as the fundamental question of skeptical relativism: What is truth? It was a rhetorical question, illustrating the universal culture war present today as it was then. In the scene the representative of relativism asked Truth Himself what He is. This question came immediately after Jesus told Pilate, "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Let's explore this question beneath the surface, as well as what it means to be "of the truth."

We don't have to look far in popular culture to see this question popping up in various forms. In the iconic scene of the movie 'A Few Good Men', Tom Cruz's character shouts out, "I want the truth!" - which elicits a quick response from Jack Nicholson's character, "You can't handle the truth!" In the new Chappaquiddick movie about Ted Kennedy the line that gets the most publicity is: "We will tell the truth, at least our version of it." Sometimes telling the truth gets us in trouble, as we saw in the Geico commercial where a wife asks her husband the dreaded question, "Do I look fat in this dress?" Another version has Honest Abe's wife asking the question, forcing Lincoln into an awkward silence. In both versions a narrator's voice is immediately heard saying something like, "Before the time it takes for you to take out the sleeper sofa, Geico can save you 15% or more on car insurance."

These three examples represent three ways humanity has dealt with truth. We: a) demand it, b) falsify it, or c) fear it. Let's look at each of these three, one at a time. Those who want it without fluff or equivocation usually possess a good will coupled with the virtue of courage. It illustrates a willingness to reform one's ego and desires according to something greater than oneself. On the other hand, those who often falsify the truth by lies or exaggerations value self more than truth, often seeing the latter as the enemy to happiness. And those who fear truth are often sincere but cowardly. They seek the easy road in life by avoiding the important and potentially uncomfortable questions. These three modes of response - openness, deception, and avoidance - can be

further categorized into two different attitudes: love of truth vs. love of self. Those who primarily love truth are willing to sacrifice self; those who allow selfishness or fear to dictate their choices are often willing to sacrifice truth.

Which of these was Pontius Pilate? It depends on which Gospel you read. Some accounts portray him as fearful (of the crowds) while others emphasize more His power and aloofness. Perhaps he was sincere in asking the great three-word question and even knew the answer deep in his heart, but was unwilling to submit to the Answer who was standing right in front of him, crowned with thorns. Which of the three categories do you fall into with regard to truth? Are you the truthseeker, the falsifier, or the avoider? Does love, pride, or fear run your life? Which would you like to be? The question reminds me of a cartoon meme I've recently seen on the internet and posted a couple times on Facebook. In the picture there are two booths with signs, set up next to each other. One person mans each booth. The sign on the left says "Comfortable Lies" and the sign on the right "Unpleasant Truths." There were hundreds of people lined up in front of the booth on the left, while only a few people two were in line for the booth on the right. Would we rather live in a pleasant fantasy filled with pleasure and avoidance, or the challenging reality that includes sacrifice and suffering? Pilate chose one, Jesus chose the other.

Justice demands that we suffer for the sin and injustice we have perpetrated or contributed to in this life. Without justice there can be no mercy, and without both there is no love. If we continue to avoid the truth out of selfishness or fear we cannot love, and one day will come face-to-face with the consequence of this: hell. If we are to be saved from this everlasting consequence of avoiding Truth, we must trust in His divine mercy. This is the message of this Easter season.

Pontius Pilate and the skeptical relativist in all of us should heed the words of Truth Incarnate who wants to save us all from our selfishness and fear: "If you remain in my word you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn 8:32). "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6). "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?" (Mt 16:26). That is truth.

Paul Murano

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A Public Servant with a Heart

The 1st Essex Senate district has an amazing opportunity to deliver a unique public servant. Diana DiZoglio (D) , Methuen, the current state representative for the 14th Essex District The 1st Essex Senate district represents; Newburyport, Amesbury, Salisbury, Merrimac, Haverhill, Methuen and a portion of North Andover.

Diana is a tireless advocate for working people. She is a friend and advocate for veterans. I've had several meetings with her over the issues we care about in this group. We've participated in closed session meetings with officials and local police chiefs.

She has lead the effort to address substance abuse and is one of the founders of a regional organization addressing these issues.

And in every area I just mentioned she has either directly created/ sponsored legislation - or supported relevant legislation for meaningful change. I currently have actively worked with her to develop and support legislation to support the very people we serve in this group. She has also joined and poured her energies in supporting grass-roots efforts as well as funded program legislation to support the most -risk veterans.

Diana is a rarity in public service because she has the capacity to marry compassion with sensible public policy. Her greatest quality is her humility.

Closest to my heart: Diana has quietly participated in distributing items for women to survive in the elements at Casey Bridge ("Tent City", Lawrence). She has



taken both physical risks and political ones to visit places with me where the most marginalized people eke out an existence. Bridges, tunnels, railroad corridors, shelters. She's visited to learn firsthand the problems of failed social nets for the most at-risk residents in our region..

And she actually grew up doing missionary work with her mom in the streets of Lawrence and Methuen. There's nothing some of us have seen and experienced that she doesn't know- firsthand.

She gets it. I support her. I can't vote for her because Groveland is not in her district, but many of you that I am blessed to serve with through our humanitarian project -Merrimack Valley Hope Mission - can vote for Diana.

I hope you'll give her the fullest consideration.

Joe D'Amore is Founder, Merrimack Valley Hope Mission~, Groveland, MA

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR KATY IVES

Residents Can Save with the Mass Save Program

The Mass Save program is an energy program, funded by the energy efficiency surcharge on electricity bills in the state. Many residents are not aware of the savings available to them through this program. Mass Save was created in the Green Communities Act of 2008, a state law requiring utility companies, working with the Department of Energy, to provide energy efficiency services to their customers. Those utility companies include Columbia Gas of Massachusetts and National Grid.

Mass Save, offers free in-home energy assessments to all homeowners by providing an analysis of energy efficiencies in your home. A mass save employee assesses the overall energy usage in the home and offers energy-saving recommendations. At the assessment the homeowner will be provided with qualifying rebates and incentives, as well as the option of having the installation of energy efficient light bulbs, advanced power strips, low-flow showerheads, programmable thermostats or wireless thermostats at little or no cost.

Some of the rebates include:

- Up to \$500 rebate - Heating & cooling equipment.
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- Up to \$1,600 rebate - Oil heating equipment.
- Up to \$500 rebate - Propane heating equipment.
- Up to \$2,500 rebate - Electric heat pump water heaters.
- Up to \$750 rebate - Gas water heaters.
- Discounted price & no-cost installation - Gas, oil & propane outdoor boiler reset controls.
- Special offer on home insulation - 75% to 100% off insulation, plus no-cost air sealing of leaks in drafty areas of your home.
- \$50 rebate - Clothes washers.

These rebates are designed to replace old and energy inefficient equipment. Notably, Mass Save also offers a HEAT Loan for qualified energy efficiency improvements, such as switching from oil to gas heat, and installing dual zone central air conditioning systems, with zero percent financing up to \$25,000. To set up a no cost assessment you can call 1-866-527-SAVE (7283) and visit <https://www.masssave.com> for more information.

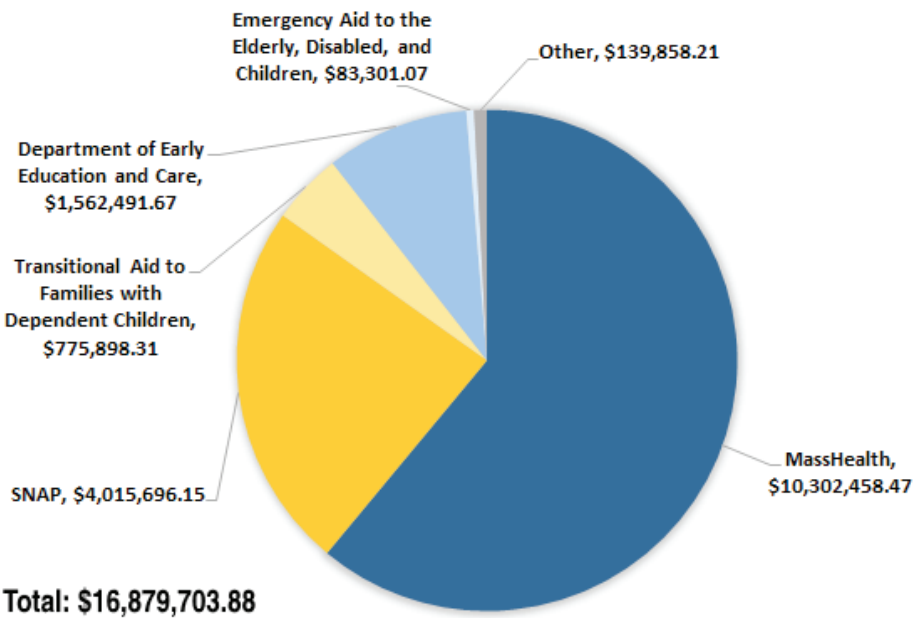
LETTER: FROM PAGE 4

for things, demanding things, accumulating things. Most people never take the time to stop and savor a piece of cake or breathe deeply to appreciate a gentle breeze like you do. I hear people in this world use horrible insulting language to describe kids like you, and I want to shake them and yell at them. Some mock disabled kiddos like you and I feel like crying. You don't understand their words, but I do. Sometimes, I really wish I did not. We never thought you would crawl let alone walk, but you showed us. Your situation and challenges and disabilities have caused me to question my belief in God on some days and have served to

strengthen it on others. You don't speak but somehow you are able to brighten my days in ways that I never imagined. Without a single solitary word, you've made me a better man and touched countless people. Hearing you cry, ties my stomach into knots, but your giggle is truly the happiest sound that I have ever heard. I know you'll never read this nor would you understand this if I were to read it you. So let me just say kisses and cookies, Jules Bagools. I tell you today what I have told you on every March 7th since 2003, Daddy loves you more than you will ever know.

FRAUD: FROM 2

FY17 FRAUD IDENTIFIED, BY PROGRAM



sistance (which administers MassHealth). In addition, BSI has an agreement with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to investigate fraud in that program as well. BSI receives referrals for investigation from its agency partners, public tips, referrals from federal agencies, and through the use of its data analytics tools. The public can report potential fraud to BSI at: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/>

report-public-benefit-fraud The BSI Annual Report for FY17, and a one-page summary of Bump's office work in this realm are attached. For more information, visit www.mass.gov/auditor or follow Auditor Bump on Twitter @MassAuditor, on Facebook, or subscribe to the Auditor's Report e-newsletter.



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Clean River Project Invites You to “Earth Day Awareness Rally”

April 22nd, 11 am to 2 pm G.A.R. Park in Haverhill, MA

On Sunday, April 22nd from 11 am to 2 pm at the G.A.R Park in Haverhill, MA, the Clean River Project is laying down its Merrimack River clean up tools and invites the community to a free, positive, informative and family-friendly “Earth Day Awareness” event.

At 11:00 am, speakers from watershed advocacy organizations from all over the Merrimack Valley will report on the state of river cleanup efforts and shed light on how public investment could ensure consistent and successful progress in keeping the Merrimack River and her tributaries clean and safe. Confirmed speakers include Rusty Russell, Executive Director of the Merrimack River Watershed Council, Justin Damon of the Shawsheen River Watershed, Asia Scudder with the Waterkeepers Alliance of Amesbury, Peter Doyle of the Powwow River Alliance, Julia Blatt from the Massachusetts River Alliance, Debo Brown community activist and Tom Duggan of the Valley Patriot. Other speakers invited but not yet confirmed are the EPA, and Groundwork Lawrence.

Beginning at 11 am and ending at 2 pm, Clean River Project and other local environmental nonprofits will have informational tables to educate the public, engage in conversation, and answer questions. Families can visit the Clean River Projects’ arts and crafts table to make posters, paint river rocks, and leave with a free plant. Volunteer sign-ups, a “Clean River Pledge”, and “Clean River Petition” will be distributed to give attendees the opportunity to voice their support, get engaged, and deliver a call to action requesting local leaders to make critical public investments that directly support and sustain Merrimack River cleanup. Attendees are encouraged to bring signs to show their support for river cleanup and public investment. The event is free and open to the public. This event is rain or shine. Bring umbrellas if there is rain!

The event also marks the launch of the

“Merrimack Riverkeepers Coalition”, a network of organizations and citizens working together to raise awareness, spark community engagement, and continue to apply pressure on elected representatives and other government officials to invest in river and tributary cleanup. With the fast-paced rise in population and increasing development that has moved into the Merrimack Valley there has been a critical increase in waterway pollution, severe encroachment of the surrounding watershed as well as an overwhelming surge in the number of needles found in relation to the opioid crisis. Now is the time for organizations and citizens of like minds to band together and elevate river cleanup to critical status.

The Clean River Project was launched in 2005 by Rocky Morrison and is dedicated to the cleaning and preservation of the Merrimack River. It relies primarily on volunteers, community fundraising, and public investments to fulfill its mission. Since its start, the Merrimack riverbanks have gone from being totally covered with debris to be the beautiful beaches they once were over 100 years ago. Unfortunately, public investment for these efforts are insufficient to fund the magnitude of the job at hand. Clean River Project’s work cannot continue without the support of local towns and citizenry.

The Merrimack River is a 117-mile river and its watershed covers over 5,000 square miles from southern New Hampshire to northeastern Massachusetts. It is the fourth largest river basin in New England. It starts in Franklin, NH at the confluence of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee rivers and flows through NH and MA towns until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean between the cities of Salisbury and Newburyport.

Nonprofit organizations that wish to table at the event or those who would like to volunteer should contact Clean River

MERRIMACK: NEXT PAGE

Five Spices To Spice Up Your Health

Rick Bellanti
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Over the last year you have seen me write about what foods to stay away from, what foods make you unhealthy and also cause inflammation in our bodies causing us pain. We even talked a few months back about what foods are too acidic and what to eat to help your body become more healthy in an alkaline state. Now, let’s talk spices.

Spices are used to flavor our food, and research has shown that they are made up of healthy compounds and could help prevent many diseases and illnesses. Spices fight inflammation and reduce damage to your body’s cells because they are rich in healthy plant chemicals. (called phytochemicals). Spices are also very flavorful and adding them to your foods will make it easier to cut back on the unhealthy ingredients, like salt, fat and sugar.

Let’s start with one of my favorites, Cinnamon; studies show that it helps with inflammation, fights off bacteria and helps fend off free radicals that damage our cells. Some studies have shown that it may help regulate your blood sugar levels. It is very low in calories and sugar free, it’s inexpensive and can be added to shakes, smoothies, coffee, tea and sprinkle some on some sliced apples for a yummy snack.

Cumin, a member of the parsley family, cumin is derived from the plant known as Cuminum cyminum, and is native to India. It’s a great spice to add to cooking but it also aids digestion, boosts your immune system, and is packed with vital nutrients necessary for our bodies. Cumin has been used in traditional medicine for many years due to its medicinal properties and ability to cure infections because of

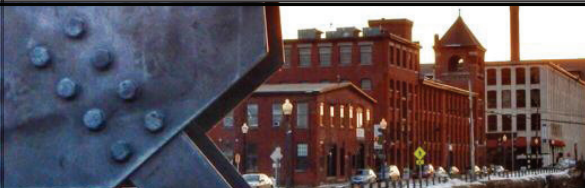
their antibacterial and antiseptic properties. Also, high in Vitamin C, it contains essential nutrients that fight inflammation, lowers blood pressure, reduces the risk of a stroke and fights stress that can lead to cancer.

Next up, another favorite, Turmeric, again a great spice to help with inflammation in our bodies, chock full of antioxidants. It’s also another great source of curcumin which studies have shown may help ease pain and could lower your chances of heart attacks. It’s an Asian spice, found in dishes like curry. The major active principle is curcumin. The health benefits of turmeric include relief from joint pain, such as Gout, rheumatoid arthritis, reduced joint swelling, and greater range of motion when used regularly, it is also a member of the ginger family, our next spice.

Ginger, some research and studies also show that ginger has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, and could possibly play a role in preventing diseases like cancer. Ginger is well known for its digestive virtues thanks to the active ingredient gingerol. This stimulates the production of bile and digestive enzymes. It seems to have a calming effect on your stomach lining, which aids in easing nausea and upset stomach. Ginger is commonly a root and you can shave it or grate it and add it to foods or even tea. Ginger can be taken in different forms, such as capsules, ground ginger powder, herbal teas, fresh ginger, crystallized ginger or syrup. More studies have recently shown that ginger supplements can help reduce inflammation in the colon, in turn potentially reducing the risk of colon cancer.

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MERRIMACK: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Project at helen@cleanriverproject.org or 978-857-6680. Due to budget constraints, Clean River Project is not able to provide tables and tents but attendees are welcome to bring their own.

About Clean River Project

Clean River Project Inc. is a non-profit organization founded by Rocky Morrison in 2005 dedicated to the cleaning and preservation of our nation's rivers, lakes, and streams. Our mission is to clean, protect, and provide a safer water supply to the many cities and towns who rely heavily on this natural resource. We are committed to improving water quality by raising environmental awareness through education and prevention. To develop community based projects and programs that reduce and recycle pollution, promote safe clean waterways and healthier drinking water. We shall create one collective voice in the future policy, planning and management of our water by fostering partnerships and working together with community leaders, area businesses, other organizations, federal, state, and local governments for healthy, safe, clean drinking water.

HEALTH: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

packed crystals which formed naturally within the earth and have a pink, white and red color to it. Natural salts have plenty of iodine, so it doesn't need to be artificially added in and is said to be the purest form of sea salt. The reason why Himalayan Sea Salt is better for you is it increases hydration, regulates the water inside and outside of cells, helps prevent muscle cramping, aids in metabolism functioning, helps strengthen bones, helps the intestines absorb nutrients, improves circulation and helps remove toxins.

Adding a little spice daily to your diet can benefit you more than you think. Not only will it add in flavoring our foods

but as you can see they are packed with anti-inflammatory agents that will help ease pain, and also flood our bodies with powerful antioxidants. Don't just walk by the spice aisle anymore, explore it and see what you can find. It just might lead you to better living.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.



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TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



Steven Bochco (1943-2018)

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

On April 1, legendary TV producer-creator-writer Steven Bochco passed away from Leukemia at the age of 74. The legacy he left behind cannot be matched by many people in television history.

A 10 time Emmy winner, Bochco had a hand in creating, producing, or writing some of the most influential and groundbreaking television shows in the history of the medium.

Bochco started his career as a story writer on 1970s shows like Columbo and McMillan & Wife before achieving major success in the 1980s by reshaping the TV drama genre with the police drama Hill Street Blues, which he co-created, wrote, and produced. The show pushed the boundaries of network drama and was among the lowest rated series NBC ever renewed before it eventually became a hit. In its first season, Hill Street Blues was nominated for 21 Primetime Emmy Awards. It would win four consecutive Emmy's for Outstanding Drama Series.

Bochco's shows pioneered several modern day aspects of TV, including serialized dramas that featured large ensemble casts and true to life storylines. A pattern he would follow with all of his later series.

In 1986, Bochco's next success came when he co-created and produced the legal drama L.A. Law. It would go on to win 15 Emmys over its 8 seasons, including Outstanding Drama Series four times. The New York Times described it as "television's most serious attempt to date to portray American law and the people who practice it.... L.A. Law perhaps more than any other force, has come to shape public perceptions about lawyers and the legal system." It also helped spawn the career of prolific TV creator and producer David E. Kelley (Picket Fences, Ally McBeal, who was a Boston lawyer at the time Bochco hired him to work on L.A. Law as a writer and editor.

Over the next 7 years, Bochco would create several series with varying degrees of success including Doogie Howser, M.D. In 1990 Bochco tried something very different. He created the musical police drama series, Cop Rock. It was a critical and commercial failure and was cancelled after 11 episodes. But one can't help but think that it would have had much more success today with musical shows like Glee, Smash, and Crazy Ex-Girlfriend all garnering acclaim and lasting for multiple seasons.

After the failure of Cop Rock, Bochco returned to his bread and butter. He created another gritty, realistic police drama called NYPD Blue. It premiered on ABC on September 21, 1993 and immediately set off a firestorm of controversy. A buzz built around the pilot episode in the weeks prior to its premiere. Rumor had it would feature crotch-grabbing, foul language, and nudity. Three things that were unheard of on network TV in the early 90ss. Multiple family groups protested and urged advertisers to boycott, but it all backfired and made the show a hit. More than 30 million people tuned into the premiere. The series would run for 12 seasons and won 20 Emmys over its run including a win for Outstanding Drama Series in 1995.

Hill Street Blues, L.A. Law, and NYPD Blue would have been enough to ensure Bochco's place in TV history, but he continued to generate other significant series as well. Murder One was an experiment in serialized network TV storytelling that spent an entire season following a single murder trial. That may not sound like much of a risk today, but in 1995, Murder One's single-case premise was downright unprecedented. The idea of asking viewers to follow one complex homicide investigation over an entire season seemed, in a word, ambitious. The show would only last 23 episodes. Perhaps it was way ahead of its time and would have fit in perfectly in today's made-to-binge TV landscape.

Although he never quite matched the success of his earlier series, Bochco continued to create quality television series like Philly, Commander In Chief, Raising the Bar, and most recently Murder In The First.

The face of TV today would be very different without the innovative and groundbreaking path blazed by Steven Bochco. He was a revolutionary when network TV was ordinary. His inspiration can be seen on many series such as The Wire, The Shield, True Detective, and 24.

Bochco leaves a void in the TV industry that will be felt for many years to come.

Hill Street Blues, Murder in the First, Doogie Howser, M.D., Murder One, and NYPD Blue are all currently streaming on Hulu.



Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column. For daily TV news, follow Bill on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk.



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YOUR MONEY

Maintaining Financial Stability After a Job Loss

Alex Talcott
VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNISTS

Finances can be a major source of stress for many Americans, as they strive to balance myriad money priorities. This financial stress is particularly common for those who experience a job reduction or job loss and no longer have the same amount of income coming in. If you experience an unexpected change in your employment status, review your financial situation and create a plan to help you feel more in control. The following tips can help you work to maintain financial stability:

Reassess your financial situation. Start by reviewing your recent bank statements, current portfolio and upcoming financial obligations. Then, chat with your spouse or partner about how to prioritize future spending. If possible, try to maintain momentum on key financial goals, such as saving for college or retirement. Even a modest amount can add up, so continue to make saving what you can a habit.

Understand your severance package. If you received a severance package, be sure you understand the terms, timeframe and payment amount. Your deal may include several paychecks, reimbursement for unused paid-time-off or sick days, or stock options, among other possible sources of income. Consider reviewing the terms with a trusted attorney or financial professional, particularly if you have the option to negotiate your severance. Some companies offer career coaching, human resources support or other non-monetary benefits, so don't overlook the importance of these benefits in your package.

Use your emergency fund. If you have a healthy emergency fund (three-to-six months' worth of expenses is ideal for

most people), give yourself permission to dip into it. It can be challenging to watch money flow out after diligently building your savings, but doing so can help you meet financial obligations. Once you secure a new job, prioritize rebuilding your emergency fund so you're prepared if another unexpected expense comes your way.

Avoid dipping into your retirement accounts. You have the potential to spend decades in retirement, so it's important to maintain your dedicated savings. Borrowing or withdrawing money from a 401(k) is taxable, and will also incur a 10 percent penalty fee. However, you could also miss out on months or even years' worth of compounding and potential market growth that can be challenging to make up.

Extend your health insurance. Take action right away to make sure you don't experience a lapse in health insurance coverage. Unexpected illnesses or accidents can happen to anyone, and the financial impact can be significantly higher without the right insurance plan. If you received health insurance through your former employer, you may qualify for COBRA insurance offered through the federal government. Costs, length of coverage and specific plan options (including coverage for your spouse, partner or dependents) vary depending on your circumstances, so contact the U.S. Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services for more information. Job loss is considered a qualifying event, which means you may shop the health care marketplace to find a plan that works best for you and your family.

Consider tax implications. Losing a job – and finding a new one – can affect your taxes. Severance pay, unemployment com-

MONEY: PAGE 26

Spotlight on Methuen Volunteer for National Volunteer Week

For three years, Nick Daher has volunteered as a Playspace Activity Leader (PAL) for Horizons for Homeless Children, an organization that provides resources such as early education and safe Playspaces within shelters to children under the age of six, and arms their parents with tools (like job training) to break the cycle of homelessness.

By spending two hours per week playing with and reading to the shelter's children, Nick can help reduce the lasting trauma of homelessness that can negatively impact a child's brain development. There are approximately 16,000 children under six living with homelessness in Massachusetts, so people like Bill are in high demand—especially across the Northeast region where 75 volunteers are needed to serve the 300 children in need across 25 shelters in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore areas.

"I've always had a soft spot for kids," Daher says, "and when I was up late one night watching the Celtics I saw an ad for Horizons and knew I had to get involved."

Nick has been a PAL for three years. "I look forward to those two hours each week where I can shut everything else off and volunteer. I leave with a clear head and benefit as much as – if not more than – the kids do."

"You can't argue whether these kids deserve a better life. They all do." Nick works in a shelter with about 40 families, many of which are displaced by domestic violence. The kids' Playspace is a small dining room area, but they don't mind the cramped quarters. "For them, it's a time to play," he said.

The need for PALs: "We're all naïve to how these people become homeless. It's so often single mothers who have been abandoned or mistreated – how are they supposed to pay rent when they need to take care of their kid, can't afford daycare and need a job?"

Horizons inspired Nick to shift other volunteer efforts to make maximum impact for kids in need. He now balances his PAL volunteering with coaching basketball at the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

from Island to Island.

However, he said with a grin, the B29 Bomber pilots could check one out, and often did, taking Army nurses sightseeing while off duty.

Saipan was captured in July 1944, and with its airfields built by U.S. Navy Seabees was fully operational by October 1944. Saipan was well suited to bomb Japan from using the B29. 20th Air Force



was on Saipan and the 21st Air Force was on Tinian, both units maintained a HQ on the Island of Guam. Each Island had over 300+ B 29s. Peter said that air raids with 1,000 B29s were common in the last months of the war against Japan. He was an eye witness to the B29 "Enola Gay" leaving neighboring Tinian to drop the first Atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later a second B-29, "Bockscar", dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki

With a range 3,100 miles, the legendary B-29 Superfortress was manufactured by Boeing, the company's website states that "The earliest B-29s were built before testing was finished, so the Army Air Corp established modification centers where last-

minute changes could be made without slowing expanding assembly lines. Boeing built a total of 2,766 B-29s at plants in Wichita, Kansas. B-29s were primarily used in the Pacific theater during World

War II. Two other companys also built B 29s during World War II, Glen Martin and Bell Aircraft.

Many World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Veterans have told me stories of being hassled by the career NCOs

(often called lifers by both officers and enlisted men) while they were mustering out, at the end of their military service. Sgt. D'Ambrosio's experience was quite different, after Japan surrendered, his unit was moved to California, where he spent a week at a USAAC camp in Redwoods, California. The locals invited him and his squadron mates to Christmas dinner, then, after a few days, he was put on a train to Fort Devens.

Peter D'Ambrosio considers himself lucky having served in World War II on Saipan with his twin brother Anthony, and his cousin Peter Campino. He had another brother Michael, too young to serve, and a sister Lilian, who later be-



came a Massachusetts Judge. He and his wife Elizabeth, now deceased, have two sons, Bruce living in Los Angeles, CA and Brian up in Brentwood, NH. Besides his skill on computers, another interesting fact about his life is that he graduated from the High School of Commerce (now English High) Class of 1941, the graduation ceremony guest speaker was Red Sox Left Fielder and future U.S. Marine Pilot, Ted Williams. Becoming a pilot himself after leaving the U.S. Army Air Corp. He owned several planes, and he used to fly out of the now closed Tewksbury Airport,

and now flies with his friends out of Lawrence's Airport.

Mr. D'Ambrosio's post war career including stints in both the computer and electronics industries. Entering the computer industry in its infancy in the 1950s. He started in key card era, when trucks and professional riggers were needed to move computer equipment, and today is more proficient on a computer and a smartphone than most Americans. It was an honor and a pleasure to have breakfast and two detailed conversations with this "hero in our midst".

Property Sales, Foreclosures for MARCH, 2018 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

69 North St. LLC, Devan Kucker, 27 Boardwalk Dr. Unit 207, \$199,800.00
John & Susan Monteiro, Michael Monteiro, 80 North St., \$275,000.00
Tristan Homes LLC, Ke Wang & Aihua Jiang, 73 Woburn St. , \$779,000.00
West Knoll LLC, Petty Harbor Investments LLC, 6 West Knoll Road 8 West Knoll Road, \$470,000.00
Yvon Cormier & CA Investment Trust, Larry Renfro, 15 Trevino Cir., \$2,600,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Joseph Farnham, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 112, \$106,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Robert & Paula Silva, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 408, \$479,660.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Margaret Flaherty, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 102, \$354,875.00
331 South Main Realty Trust & Roy Umanzio, Yoav & Limor Soen, 331 South Main St., \$660,000.00
Jianhua Huang & Lichun Yang, Rachid & Kelly Eloufir, 70C Washington Park Dr. Unit 12, \$180,000.00
Whetstone 150 Minuteman Park LLC, Minuteman Property Owner Corp., 150 Minuteman Road, \$32,000,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Daniel & Catharine Falkner, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 109, \$369,665.00
Luis Martinez & Tanya Pabon, Frontline Realty Inc., 60B Washington Park Dr. Unit 7, \$195,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Carl & Loretta Dentremont, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 101, \$169,000.00
Windkist Farm Family Trust & Patricia Lambert, Windkist Farm LLC, 125 Windkist Farm Road, \$445,885.04
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Roberta Barbieri, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 311, \$287,000.00
Lin Zhang & Yichun Yan, Pawandeep Singh & Fnu Deepa, 10 Lamancha Way, \$640,000.00
Stacia Quinn, William Wong & Nari Koga,

84 Cross St., \$665,000.00
Michael Iandolo & Jacqueline Granger, Charles & Holly Tomes, 1 Hanson Road, \$930,000.00
Thomas & Dena Dargoonian, Dargoonian Farm LLC, 0 Blanchard St. 30 Blanchard St., \$435,900.00
69 North St. LLC, Gautam Jotwani & Menka Hariani, 6 Boardwalk Dr. Unit 6, \$569,900.00
John & Karen Fox, Harry Quan, 40A Washington Park Dr., \$215,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, James Hall & James F. Hall Jr. Trust, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 409, \$480,870.00
William & Judith Yelle & Yelle Family Trust & Kevin Sullivan, Saishree Amin & Prateek Hejmady, 5 Shirley Road, \$540,000.00
Dana & Ellen Munick, Christopher & Lisa King, 3 Barbon Court, \$1,629,900.00
Bruce Stewart , Yanning Fan, 17 Ivana Dr. Unit 11-2, \$900,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Ronald St. Hilaire, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 402, \$150,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, John Halsey, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 305, \$287,000.00
Ellen Goodwin, Jeffrey & Bridgette Doherty, 5 Kensington St., \$650,000.00
Walter Benham, Vipul & Priya Kalwani, 51 Wild Rose Dr., \$660,999.00
Matthew & Hui Ping Voss, John & Lee Ann Ryan, 62 Stevens St., \$393,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Wilhelm & Olga Dichter / Dichter Family Trust, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 308, \$475,520.00
Keith Andelman, Jun Lu, 55 High St. Unit 8, \$295,000.00
Jeffrey & Lauren Brown / Brown Family Living Trust, Zheng Chen & Shan Song, 295 South Main St., \$700,000.00
Walter Mailhot & Cecile Hoyt, Danielle Benson, 92 Maple Ave Unit 92, \$230,000.00
TD Bank NA, Touchdown LLC, 24 Central St. 27 Main St. 45 Main St., \$4,850,000.00
HSBC Bank USA NA TR, Saratoga Properties LLC, 18 Launching Road, \$435,000.00
Stephen & Melissa Hogge / Melissa Ruth-erford, Marko & Carla-Jo Duufy, 48 High St.

Unit 14, \$365,000.00
Jaswinder & Harbhajan Thandi, Kevin & Lauren Davis, 6 Dairy Ln., \$675,500.00
C&M Development LLC, Gregory & Rachelle Phillips, 170 Salem St., \$625,900.00
Uyennhi Le, Westgate Development Inc., 44 Bailey Road, \$600,000.00
Q Riverside Property LLC, Babar LLC TR / Andover Collection Realty Trust, 6 River-side Dr., \$5,250,000.00
Helen Donovan, Jianhua Huang & Lichun Yang, 1 Colonial Dr. Unit B1-9, \$154,900.00
Thomas & Patricia Macelhaney, Chris-topher & Kimberly Bruff, 8 Teaberry Ln., \$700,000.00
Craig & Abbey Thompson , Todd Rosner & Rhonda Musikar-Rosner, 3 Basswood Ln., \$1,245,000.00
John Prentiss / HM Payson & Co. TR / Carol G. Prentiss Marital Trust Dated May 22, 2015, Nancy Audesse, 366 Salem St., \$875,000.00
Thomas Marjerison & Beth Mcrae, Jil-lian Comeau, 247 North Main St. Unit 2, \$219,000.00
Abdel Hanchi , Diana Taveras, 14-16 Fleming Ave, \$535,000.00
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Susan Goldman, 1 Francis Dr. Unit 302, \$351,885.00
James & Lucy Millington, Reid Jackson & Ali Kornfeld 33 Wolcott Ave ,
Marie Barron, Frederick & Danielle Klaarenbeek 3 Peppercorn Ln. ,
Francine Macdonald, Henry Pruisken 94 Jenkins Way

LAWRENCE

Bolivar & Camila Ortega, Brian Ortega, 16-16A Summit Ave, \$350,000.00
Mildred Caliri, Marianne Goodrow, 45 Durso Ave, \$259,350.00
Francis Daher, Rafaelin Peralta & Migda Cantone, 684-666 Lowell St., \$375,000.00
Kathleen Melia & Jane Melia 2012 Trust, Luis Valdez, 40 Oakside Ave, \$207,500.00
Frances Fehmel / William Spridione / Richard Martin / Michael Spiridone, Mat-thew Fehmel & Devyn Sullivan, 5 Hamlet St., \$237,500.00
AJR Investments LLC, DMB Real Estate

LLC, 65-71 Berkeley St., \$638,000.00
Correa Properties LLC., Evelyn Wang, 623 South Union St., \$275,000.00
Kristy Ruperto, Massiel Vaquez, 49 Hal-lenan Ave, \$247,000.00
Michael & Joanne Berube / Berube Family Trust / Berube 2013 Family Trust, David Bourne, 385 Water St., \$250,000.00
US Bank NA TR, Eva De Santana & Plinio Cuello, 8 Forest St., \$134,900.00
Edward & Anne Marie Rheame, Ramon Rodriguez & Ana Jerez, 80 Sylvester St., \$251,000.00
Gerald Chenelle & Chenelle Family Trust, Juan Sanchez, 7 Exchange St., \$367,000.00
Miguel & Ruth Toribio, Junior Vargas & Mariel Henriquez, 522 Andover St., \$310,000.00
Jorge & Maria Jimenez, Katty Vasquez, 261-263 Bailey St., \$450,000.00
Luis Valdez, Napomuceno & Maria Abreu, 61 Pearl St., \$405,000.00
Shani Ferdinand & Esverne Emmanuel, Yveline Constant, 1 John St., \$262,000.00
Cesilia Lopez, DMB Real Estate LLC, 14-16 Archer St. 18 Archer St., \$565,000.00
Jaluka Properties LLC, Paul & Joseph Bar-bagallo, 26-32 Railroad St. , \$400,000.00
Manuel & Yaneika Suarez, Esverne Em-manuel, 2 Highgate St., \$362,000.00
Angel Cedeno Puello, Julio Roman, 123 Osgood St. , \$430,000.00
Yanelys Martinez, Elvis Javier, 126-128 Sanborn St., \$460,000.00
RJS Development LLC, Joyce Chang, 1-3 Glenn St., \$430,000.00
Christmas Carroll, Carlos Montemor & Clifton St. Realty Trust, 76 Clifton St., \$485,000.00
Mui & Trung Tuyen, Nicholas Barreto, 92-94 Abbott St., \$415,000.00
Beronica Mulcahy, Carlos Hernandez, 75-77 Dorchester St., \$300,000.00
WRB-351 Broadway LLC, Sunyu Broad-way LLC, 351-353 Broadway, \$896,000.00
James Githitu & Elizabeth Kimari, German Pimentel, 236-238 Bailey St. , \$305,000.00
Luis Calderon, Jesus Delvalle & Ingrid Mesa, 9 Ayer Road, \$325,000.00
Kondaur Capital Corp. TR & Matawin Ventures Trust, Geannelli Deleon & Marilyn Valdez, 45 Pleasant St., \$250,000.00
Johanne Frias, NS Realty LLC, 108-110 East Haverhill St., \$775,000.00
Marston St. Real Estate Holdings LLC, Millers River Development LLC, 25 Marston St. Unit 404, \$3,348,182.00
Sasso Properties , Graciela Sanchez, 127 Ferry St., \$268,000.00
US Bank NA TR, Bernarda Cardenes, 97 Wesley St., \$205,000.00
Peter Decotis, Buenaventura Bernabel, 312 Water St. Unit 24, \$129,000.00
David & George Realty, Juan Rosario, 10-12 Boxford St., \$395,000.00
Fernando Nolberto & Mercedes Aponte, Aralby Vargas, 218-220 High St., \$520,000.00
Marlena Gaudet / Gregory & Marlena Minnon, RJP Cpnstruction & Development Inc., 27 Woodland St., \$180,000.00
Tony & Darina Nguyen, Kelen Araujo, 18-20 Marston St., \$336,500.00
Manuel Mejia, Henry Caceres, 57-59 Saunders St., \$410,000.00
Timothy & Brenda Fritschy, RJJM LLC, 18 Jamaica St., \$240,000.00
Perdomo Investments LLC, I&J Properties LLC, 71 Elm St., \$300,000.00
Eligio Perdomo, Jenny Marte, 73 Elm St., \$300,000.00
Hermes Godoy , Marie Forbuzie, 362-364 Ames St., \$430,000.00
Oscar Guerra, Elmer Aguirre, 237-239 Bailey St. , \$257,000.00



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REALTY



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LLB Construction Inc., Yvette Sirois, 54-62 Dracut St., \$115,000.00
Florencio & Nelly Padua, Liem Le / Yen Nguyen, 166 Gilbert St., \$275,000.00
Jose Jimenez, Sergia Rosa, 196 Boxford St., \$250,000.00
Mary Ann Parry, Bernarda Cardenes, 524 Howard St., \$210,000.00
William Hidalgo, Eric Artiles, 9-11 Dana St., \$260,000.00
Manuel Dehernandez & Giorgina Mejia, Wilson Guzman, 250 Colonial Road, \$270,000.00
Thomas Loughlin, Maroun Bechara, 130-132 Exeter St., \$265,000.00
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co. TR, Maira Ruiz-Montero, 14 Cedar St., \$110,250.00
Kennia Camilo / Kennia Mejia, Jorge & Bartolo Martinez, 343-345 Jacksom St., \$455,000.00
Santa Collante , Nancy Burgos & Fiordaliza De Paniagua, 7 Camden St., \$242,000.00
Pontiac Social & Charitable Club Inc., Davinci Mini Apartments LLC, 65 Jackson St., \$352,000.00
Albert Bilodeau & Kathleen Woekel, RJP Cpnstruction & Development Inc., 50 William St., \$190,000.00
Jacqueline Minasian, Ramon Henriquez & Asuncion Gabriel, 56 Shattuck Road, \$380,000.00
Wiston Almanzar, Gustavo Mejia & Fior Guerrero, 28 Midland St., \$280,000.00
Karen Karongo, Caroline Villilo, 77-79 Bailey St. , \$425,000.00
Jose & Zoila Marquez / Zoila Lora / Lora & Marquez Trust, RJJM LLC, 123-125 Cross St., \$240,000.00
Denise Realty LLC, Indo Urena & Gladys Oriach, 19 Berkeley St., \$245,000.00
Sui Thu & Muoi Truong / Thu Truong 2013 Trust, Jose Mena, 52-54 Abbott St., \$500,000.00
Daher Group Inc. , George Koontz, 68-70 Manchester St., \$70,000.00
Brooks Properties I LLC, Apple Properties LLC, 90 Glenn St., \$3,078,000.00
Maria Ayala, Jisell Difo, 49 Walnut St., \$180,000.00
Jose Batista, Belky Vargas, 43 Boxford St., \$140,000.00
Matthew Gosselin / Gosselin Family Irrevocable Trust, Adrian Urena & Stef-

fany Espinal-Trinidad, 4 East Gilbert St., \$325,000.00
METHUEN
William White & Caroline Waggoner, American Real Estate Development LLC, 40 Delmont St., \$97,600.00
Sea Princess Realty LLC, Jeffrey & Lauren Potvin, 57-59 Pelham St., \$472,000.00
Robert Palmisano, Carole Rimmer, 21 Hampshire Road Unit 207, \$223,000.00
Richard & Erika Dion, Khalid Moutawassit & Wardia Angar, 6 Anna Terrace, \$295,000.00
Deborah Carbone & 55-59 Broadway Realty Trust, DLC Phase One LLC, 55-59 Broadway, \$880,000.00
Jose Suriel & Delsi Gomez, Danilo Suriel & Jennifer Amarante, 14-16 Plymouth Terrace, \$400,000.00
Nicholas Aalerud & Newton Realty Trust, Collin & Melissa Defriesse, 95 Brown St., \$299,000.00
Diverse Real Estate LLC, Kelling Florentino, 94B Railroad St. Unit B, \$235,000.00
Tong & Truc Mac, Christopher & Sulamita Mauzy, 35 Bridgham St., \$395,000.00
Paul Michaud & 3 Hobson St. Realty Trust, Jason Orsini, 3-5 Hobson St., \$334,000.00
Ogkyeong & Chongkwan Yim , Scott & Carol Cattoggio, 22 Penobscott Cir. Unit 22, \$269,000.00
Glennn Saba & Adele B. Saba Irrevocable Family Trust, Laura Rose & Danielle Federico, 32 Brandee Ln., \$240,000.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Joseph & Jean Procacini, 32 Sequoia Dr. Unit 54, \$682,142.00
Neil & Caroline Keating, James Head, 51 Tyler St., \$355,000.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Christine Lahey, 5 Sequoia Dr. Unit 107, \$594,174.00
Rose Bailey & Carmine L. Martino Realty Trust, Cesilia Vargas, 5 King St., \$255,000.00
Russell & Cynthia Bergeron, Russell Scott Bergeron, 39 Clinton St., \$375,000.00
LLB Construction Inc., Severino Reyes & Eridania Peralta, 23 Williams St., \$435,000.00
Carmelo Motta / Ralph Stewart / Paul E. Saperstein Co., Robert Palmisano, 71 Mystic St. Unit 18, \$90,000.00
Kathleen O’Connell, Kelly Conroy, 52 High St. Unit 2, \$159,900.00

Ryan Shea / Paula Shea / Leonard Shea, Robert Parish & Jennifer Wolf, 9 Giles St., \$342,400.00
Nancy Mangano, Andres Platon & Sharon Jordan, 17 Tedesco Road, \$330,000.00
Toll MA IV LLC, John & Joann Weaver, 23 Pine Tree Dr. Unit 98, \$683,050.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Yolanda Bell, 7 Tahoe Cir. Unit 31, \$759,704.00
Target Corp. , Chick-Fil-A Inc., 67 Pleasant Valley St., \$900,000.00
Anthony & Patricia Rosanio, Nathan Pelletier, 11 Dottie Ln., \$389,500.00
George Sfeir, Matthew & Barbara Fardy / Nicolle Dellicolli, 1 Riverview Boulevard Unit 3-201, \$255,000.00
Peluso Painting & Restoration LLC, Ramon Martinez & Carmen Ramos, 506 Howe St., \$400,000.00
Edward Fasano, Rafael & Mercedes Antigua, 297 Broadway Unit 1, \$195,000.00
Joanne Cuomo / Pio & Gaetano Frittitta, Jose Medina, 16 Auburn St., \$250,000.00
Deanna Chenard / Deanna Demers, Ethan & Cindy Thong, 40 Swan Ave, \$350,000.00
Joseph Gaidis & Karen Nober, Yollian & Yolanda Dasilva, 124 Marshall St. Unit 3, \$209,000.00
Jamil Ball, Miroslav & Svjetlana Bozic, 11 West St., \$375,000.00
Peter & Frances Rossetti / 52 Year Realty Trust, Raquel Betances, 2-4 Albion St., \$450,000.00
Charles & Anne Coconis / Coconis Family Realty Trust, Youssef Aymen & Fouzia El Hajli, 6 Woodburn Dr., \$314,900.00
Shirley Bevin & Elizabeth McGilvary, Rocco & Jane Miele, 258 Howe St., \$160,000.00
Kara & Darlene Gaudette / Kara Bowles, Premium Properties Inc. , 16 Marjorie St., \$190,000.00
Robit Patel, Wendell & Andrea Nunes, 34 Washington St., \$365,000.00
Pinnacle Builders LLC, Scott & He Stewart, Liams Ln., \$579,500.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Klaus Lasch, 1 Sierra Court Unit 15, \$629,247.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Rocco & Sheila Troano, 6 Sequoia Dr. Unit 41, \$823,515.00
Christopher Merlino & Leldamy Correa, Patrick & Gloria Blanchette, 155 Maple St., \$433,000.00
Deborah Eagan, Julio Castilho, 29 Alvin St. , \$323,000.00
NJM Realty LLC, Nelson Dani / Nelson Mejia / Milagros Danidecastillo, 11-13 Center St., \$346,000.00
Gary Castiglione, Carlene Ballway, 177D Pleasant Valley St., \$189,900.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Robert & Elizabeth Bonenfant, 17 Sequoia Dr. Unit 113, \$649,606.00
Hales Landing LLC, Nathan Nye & Nancy Mahoney, 28 Marjorie St. EXT, \$498,869.00
Ronald Pitocchelli, Ysbelis Beriguete, 14F Constitution Way Unit F, \$140,000.00
Janice Butterfield, Thomas & Jennifer Abernathy, 63 Landing Dr. Unit 63, \$395,000.00
Thomas & Jennifer Abernathy, Henry & Christine Pike, 12 Pinehurst Ave, \$322,000.00
Toll MA IV LLC, Janice Butterfield / Janice Butterfield Revocable Trust / Leslie Dole, 38 Sequoia Dr. Unit 57, \$603,123.00
Reem Property LLC, Derek & Tabatha Michienzi, 14 Atkinson St., \$370,000.00
Daniel St. Laurent, Billy Pomerleau & Kaitlin Hallet, 10 Ponderosa Ave, \$340,000.00
Natalie Garcia, Maria Laboy, 191-193 Tenney St., \$315,000.00
Mohamed Karim, Abu Abdullah, 9 Carriage Way, \$435,000.00
Michelle Landry, Phillip & Maria Barrett, 354 Merrimack St., \$430,000.00
Pinnacle Builders LLC, Robert & Susan Green, Liams Ln., \$579,900.00
Platinum Real Estate LLC, Emily Manzik, 1 Riverview Boulevard Unit 1-205, \$254,900.00
Shaun & Nicole Padilla / Patricia Black, Nadler Ducasce & Tessa Ortiz, 46 Westland St., \$265,000.00
Kevin & Barbara French / French Family Trust, Arrowpoint Union - Grove LLC, 17-19 Grove St. 70-72 Union St., \$3,940,000.00
107 Broadway LLC, WBC Properties LLC, 107 Broadway St. , \$949,000.00

Rui Ferreira / Christina Borges / Ilda C. Ferreira Family Irrevocable Trust / Antonio I. Ferreira Family Irrevocable Trust, Aneudy Cabral, 14-16 Union St., \$499,000.00
US Bank National Association Trust, Miguel Aguilo, 230 Merrimack St., \$233,000.00
NORTH ANDOVER
Nancy Horton, Brian & Michele Norris / Norris Family Revocable Trust, 148 Main St. Unit B-433, \$205,000.00
Eugene & Judith Reilly / JWR Realty Trust, Valk LLC, 156 Chestnut St. Unit 5, \$165,000.00
Berry / 114 Co. LLC, David & Eriko Mercure, 28 Compass Point Unit P3, \$498,300.00
Bryan & Kerry Hanssen, Melmark Inc. , 594 Boxford St., \$639,000.00
Keith & Stacy Steeves / Fred & Susan Done, Kevin & Melanie Maclean , 142 Boston St., \$600,000.00
Debra Lewandowski, Colin & Leigh McArthur, 190 Chickering Road Unit 311D, \$262,500.00
Arc Wagnama001 LLC, North Andover CPI I LLC North Andover CPI II LLC North Andover CPI III LLC Fem Lafayette Road LLC CNLV Wagnama LLC CNLV Wagnama II LLC, 800 Waverly Road, \$15,200,00.00
Ana Brea, Susan Mwangi, 9 Alder Way Unit 905, \$188,000.00
Edwina Ahern / Donna Iarocci, Paul & Robin Carr, 190 Chickering Road Unit 110D, \$295,000.00
Brian Hubbard, Jennifer Regan, 2 Harvest Dr. Unit 104B, \$142,000.00
Lijun Zhu, J&L Dipietro LLC, 5 Walker Road Unit 7, \$192,000.00
Jordan Lighthall & Gayle Buturlia, Francisca Goulart, 146 Salem St., \$375,000.00
Kathleen Reardon, Joel & Christine Schwartz, 575 Salem St., \$470,000.00
Philip Puccia , James Deoliveira, 16 Edgelawn Ave Unit 6, \$191,000.00
Joseph Cataldo & Domenic Germano, Richard Tanner, 16 Commonwealth Ave, \$480,000.00
Berry / 114 Co. LLC, Sachin Garg, 34 Compass Point Unit K3, \$448,300.00
US Bank NA TR, Daniel & Leah Stewart, 242 Appleton St., \$558,000.00
Carole Resca, TKZ LLC, 185 Mill Road 203 Mill Road, \$525,000.00
Stephanie Demarco / Stephanie Tryder, Douglas & Vanessa Meneghel, 104 Kingston St. Unit 104, \$233,000.00
Nelson Han & Kitty So, Burton & Mary Riley, 57 Village Green Dr. Unit 43, \$244,000.00
Jennifer Howard, Seungbin Lim, 3 Harvest Dr. Unit 211, \$169,000.00
Matthew Finn, Michael Holler, 3 Harvest Dr. Unit 103, \$300,000.00
Jeovanny Vargas & Johane Rosario, Gary & Terri Sussman, 210 Chickering Road Unit 204A, \$165,000.00
Mary Salois, Christopher Cronin / 10 Boston St. Realty Trust, 10 Boston St. , \$240,000.00
Michael Asselin, Stephen Hogge & Melissa Rutherford, 174 Greene St., \$465,900.00
Michael McLaughlin, Karen Spencer, 159 Main St., \$385,000.00
William Gillen, Belford Construction Inc., Kelsey Ln., \$650,000.00
Reem Property LLC, Daniel & Nicole Donegan, 980 Winter St., \$439,000.00
Robert & Elizabeth Bonenfant, Frederick & Kimberly Bleiler, 1806 Salem St., \$807,500.00
Philip Dantonio & Linda Castanino, Jeremy & Heather Perkins, 42 Foster St., \$400,000.00
Zohreh Romano / Zohreh Kim, Alexander Martineau, 50 Edgelawn Ave Unit 1, \$150,500.00
Michael & Katharine Tith, Lisa Antuna & Erica Burke, 50 Garnet Cir., \$655,000.00
Pennymac Corp. , Sergey Sorokin, 515 Waverly Road Unit 2, \$360,000.00
Christina Demur, Alyson Modica, 190 Chickering Road Unit 209D, \$311,000.00
Daniel & Maranda White, Vani Sathi, 41 Farrwood Ave Unit 11, \$196,000.00
Paul & Meliisa Iannuccillo, Judith Minicucci, 44 Millpond, \$335,000.00
Kurt & Lisa Bratton , James & Lucy Milington, 24 Lancaster Road, \$963,000.00

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Medal of Honor Recipient Tom Hudner of Andover Laid to Rest at Arlington National Cemetery

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Destiny Cheek Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division

WASHINGTON - A naval aviator who earned the Medal of Honor during the Korean War was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), April 4.

Family and friends of Capt. Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., as well as a number of service members attended the ceremony which began at the Old Post Chapel on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, in Arlington, Va.

Rear Adm. William Galinis, Program Executive Officer, Ships presented the flag that draped Hudner's casket to his wife, Georgea Hudner. Also in attendance was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson, Rear Adm. Samuel Cox, (Ret.), Director, Naval History and Heritage Command, and Cmdr. Nathan Scherry, Commanding Officer, Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Thomas Hudner (DDG 116).

Full military honors were rendered by the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard at the Old Post Chapel and at the final interment site at ANC. In addition, the ceremony also included a missing man formation flyover by Strike Fighter Squadron 32 (VFA-32), the same squadron Hudner was assigned to when he earned the Medal of Honor. VFA-32 flew out of Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va.

Hudner received the Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman for "con-

spicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War. During a mission, one of his fellow pilots, the Navy's first African American naval aviator to fly in combat, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, was hit by anti-aircraft fire damaging a fuel line and causing him to crash. After it became clear Brown was seriously injured and unable to free himself, Hudner proceeded to purposefully crash his own aircraft to join Brown and provide aid. Hudner injured his own back during his crash landing, but stayed with Brown until a rescue helicopter arrived. Hudner and the rescue pilot worked in the sub-zero, snow-laden area in an unsuccessful attempt to free Brown from the smoking wreckage. Although the effort to save Brown was not successful, Hudner was recognized for the heroic attempt.

"A hero the day he tried to rescue Jesse, a hero when he served our community, and a hero when he passed," said Scherry. "Whenever I spoke to him, he always talked of Jesse and Jesse's family. He never spoke of himself, or anything he did. It was never about Tom... We will, as the first crew of his ship, carry forward his legacy and his values of family, life, equality, and service every day of our lives."

Hudner was the last living Navy recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Korean War.

After receiving recognition for his heroism, Hudner remained on active duty, completing an additional 22 years of naval



Photo by Elizabeth Fraser Arlington National Cemetery

service during which his accomplishments include flying 27 combat missions in the Korean War and serving as the executive officer aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) during the Vietnam War.

PCU Hudner is expected to be commissioned in Boston later this year and will be the 66th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to join the fleet.

The Naval History and Heritage Command, located at the Washington Navy Yard, is responsible for the preservation, analysis, and dissemination of U.S. naval history and heritage. It provides the knowledge foundation for the Navy by maintaining historically relevant resources

and products that reflect the Navy's unique and enduring contributions through our nation's history, and supports the fleet by assisting with and delivering professional research, analysis, and interpretive services. NHHC is composed of many activities including the Navy Department Library, the Navy Operational Archives, the Navy art and artifact collections, underwater archeology, Navy histories, ten museums, USS Constitution repair facility and the historic ship Nautilus.

For more information about the Naval History and Heritage Command visit <https://www.history.navy.mil/>.



Methuen Exchange Club 35th Anniversary Celebration!

April 19th @ 6PM, Cost \$35 p.p.

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METHUEN FROM PAGE 13

current and former employees on the city health insurance plan swelled from 1,544 in FY 2016 to about 1,601 in 2018. Some of these positions were certainly needed given the city’s population growth but local government spending is still excessive in my view. I suggested a freeze on all new city positions until the budget spending is brought under control two years ago, and I repeat that call today.

After requesting the information through the Massachusetts Public Records Act, I learned that in 2016, 2 luxury Chevrolet Tahoes were purchased from Liberty Chevrolet for Fire Department officials at a cost to the taxpayers of \$100,500. In addition, 3 of the same were purchased for Police Department officials at an additional cost to the taxpayers of \$143,000. Do these vehicles make us, the public, safer? Ford Escapes or Ford Tauruses could have been just as easily purchased at a much lesser cost to the taxpayer. In 2017, 4 more luxury police vehicles were purchased at a cost of nearly \$167,000 to the taxpayers. In addition, another luxury Chevy Tahoe vehicle was purchased for the Fire Department at a cost of \$48,527 to the taxpayers. Enough is enough!

I do not intend to provide a comprehensive list of suggested cuts here, but the city council should consider what I have written above and act to reduce costs accordingly. Our Police and Fire Department officers do an excellent job responding to citizen concerns and providing vital services to our city, but the city itself must learn to live within its means just like we all do in our own households. I do not fault Fire Chief Tim Sheehy or Police Chief Joe Solomon. These officials do an excellent job for our city and their role is to advocate for their Departments. The job of the mayor and city council is to listen to and consider department requests, but to put the brakes on when those requests are unreasonable given the constraints of the budget and the burden being placed on taxpayers.

Current city employees have a 62/38 split for their health insurance while retirees enjoy an 80/20 split for the same health insurance. I am certainly not looking to take away benefits promised to our

current retirees, but this benefit needs to be changed for future retirees. Retiree health insurance benefits are currently costing the city over \$1 Million annually.

Longevity benefits cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Longevity needs to be grandfathered, capped, and negotiated out of future contracts as a benefit for new employees. Many cities and towns in the Commonwealth have already eliminated this costly expense for new hires and Methuen should do the same.

Let’s take a look at the Department of Economic and Community Development. We have a Director who makes \$112,000 per year, an Assistant Director of Planning who makes \$88,000 per year, an Assistant Director of Community Development who makes \$71,000 per year, a Community Development Secretary, a Community Development Confidential Secretary, a Head Clerk, a senior Planner, and an Environmental Planner (Position created in 2017). Do we really need all of these positions? The time has come to look seriously at consolidation.

Now, let’s turn to the Police Department. In addition to the new police officers hired, that department hired two community engagement specialists to handle the demand of the opioid epidemic and a mental health professional for dual diagnosis of mental health issues. If that were not enough, two social media specialists were also hired by the department. Is this really what we want our police department to be spending valuable resources on? Your answer will be dictated by your philosophy, but I say No.

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).

Diana

DiZoglio

State Senate

“I ran to represent the Merrimack Valley because I knew I could make a difference for our area. Whether it has been tirelessly advocating for substance abuse services; fighting to expand access to public records; or striving to be as present as possible; serving you remains an incredible honor. Thank you!”

Diana

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Diana DiZoglio
www.VoteDiZoglio.com

MONEY: FROM PAGE 20

pensation, payment for accrued vacation or sick time and other financial benefits from your employer may be taxed. On the flip side, costs related to your job search, such as travel, mileage or moving, may be deductible. Consult a tax professional who can help you determine what to expect for this year’s tax return.

Meet with your financial advisor. Any change or interruption in your salary warrants a visit to a trusted financial professional. Together you can review your financial position and determine what measures you can take during an income drought to minimize the impact on your portfolio. You can also discuss your options regarding how to handle retirement savings, company stock or other financial perks you may have received through your former employer.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Middleton, Massachusetts and Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 9

Hubbard-Hall, Inc., Trudy Lawler, President, A.P. Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc., Holly Markham, Founder & President, European Home, Jenn Sturm, President, JT Sturm Corporation, Hilary Troia, President & Co-Owner, Office Gallery International, and Nikki Walsh, President, PK Walsh Company

NECC THEATER PRESENTS “LOVE SICK” - Northern Essex Community College’s Topnotch Players explore love in a co-student directed adaptation of “Love/Sick” presented April 18 through April 21. The play will be presented Thursday, April 19, through Saturday, April 21, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 22, in the recently renovated Chester Hawrylcw Theater on the third floor of the Spurk Building on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For additional information, contact Brianne Beatrice at bbeatrice@necc.mass.edu or Dierdree Glassford at dierdreeglassford3@gmail.com. The cast includes: Boxford-Noah Greenstein, Groveland - Ben Joyall, Haverhill- Armando Belliard Harmon, Carlyle, Bien-Aime, Lawrence - Aileen Corniel, Londonderry, NH - Erica Dunn, Methuen - Troy D’angelo Lombari, Middleton - Leah Mahoney, Newburyport - Matthew Hewett, North Andover - Abbey Tannatt, Rowley, Victoria Stubbs, Tewksbury - Caitlin Elizabeth Kennedy, Salem, NH - Aaron Lehner.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS “THE VILLAINS’ SUPPER CLUB” BY LILA ROSE KAPLAN - For the final play in its 2017-18 Season, Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) is proud to premiere The Villains’ Supper Club, a new comedy by playwright Lila Rose Kaplan, whose 2016 play Home of the Brave was the best-selling world premiere in MRT’s history. The press performance is on Saturday, April 28 at 8:00 p.m. (Opening Night). Performances are April 25-May 20, 2018. All performances will be held at the Nancy L. Donahue Theatre located at 50 East Merrimack Street in historic downtown Lowell. Tickets

range from \$26-\$73 and are on sale now at www.mrt.org or by calling 978-654-4678. A senior discount is offered for 10% off adult ticket prices. Student tickets are \$15. Group discounts are available for groups of six or more by calling 978-654-7561. The press performance is on Saturday, April 28 at 8:00 p.m. (Opening Night). More information: www.mrt.org/villains.

DIZOGLIO SECURES \$300,000 FOR VALLEY VETERAN PROGRAMS – The funds, which DiZoglio last year secured through amendments to the House Budget, will be released to the Merrimack Valley following the Baker Administration lifting its hold on budget funds requested by legislators for district priorities. The Haverhill-based Career Resources Corporation, a non-profit that helps disabled veterans who are seeking employment opportunities, will receive \$200,000. For 40 years, it has worked to empower individuals with disabilities and other barriers to be successful and self-sufficient. The organization’s partnership with Valley Works Career Center, the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center and the City of Haverhill Veterans’ Services has provided area veterans with comprehensive support to seek and maintain employment.

“Unemployment remains high among veterans, comparative to the overall population,” said DiZoglio “These are men and women who have put their lives on the line for us and we need to do everything we can to help them transition back into our community. This program goes a long way toward ensuring the continued success of our service men and women.” The Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, also based in Haverhill, will receive \$100,000. The center provides care to veterans and their families, from food and shelter needs to advocacy, information, referral, career and education services. “The award sponsored by State Representative Diana DiZoglio will provide services to Veterans and their families in Middlesex and Essex Counties,” said Randy Carter, program coordinator for the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center. SENATE CANDIDATE KINGSTON

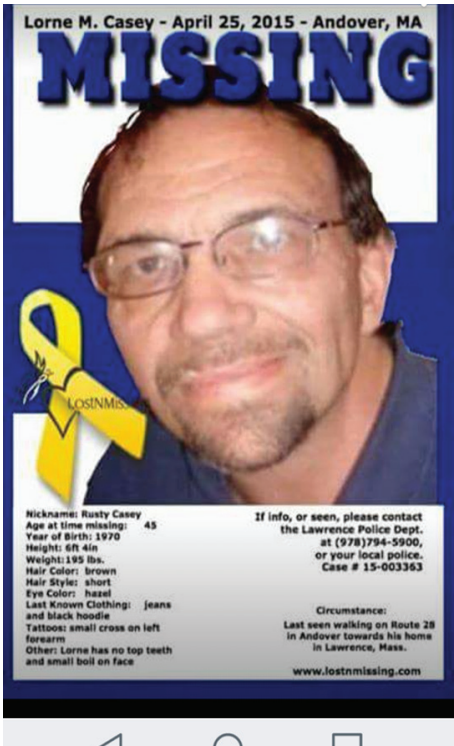
MAINTAINS \$3 WAR CHEST - Republican U.S. Senate candidate John Kingston will report having raised approximately \$275,000 in the first fundraising quarter of 2018 to maintain a commanding war chest of over \$3 million in his bid to unseat Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Kingston’s campaign also registered its highest number of individual donations of any fundraising quarter to-date.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNI-VERSARY - Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Lawrence Council 67 on Sunday April 15th. A 9am mass at St. Patrick’s Church on 118 South Broadway Lawrence, MA 01843. 10am Breakfast at Parish Hall. \$5 Donation Requested. 12 noon Social at Knights of Columbus Council 67 at 517 Andover St. in Lawrence, MA. RSVP Email KofC67@verizon.net

LOWELL GARDEN 7 CANAL CLEANUP - will be held on Friday, April 20th from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at various locations in Lowell, Mass. The canal and community garden clean-up in Lowell, organized by Borrego Solar Systems, a major solar power firm with an office in Lowell, and co-sponsored by MRWC and American Rivers. Several opportunities are on offer: (1) trash pick-up along the Western Canal near Ecumenical Plaza; (2) Ecumenical Plaza clean-up and tree box planting; (3) box restoration at the Whiting Street Community Garden; and (4) clean-up and mural donation along Decatur Way. We will be focusing on the canal. If you’re interested, send for details: info@merrimack.org or keep an eye on our Facebook feed.

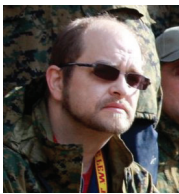
SHAWSHEEN RIVER CLEANUP Saturday, April 21 1-3 p.m., MRWC’s Shawsheen River Wildlife Sanctuary, Andover, Mass. MRWC supporters are invited to join a spring invasive species cleaning and trail clean-up at our riverside reserve on the edge of Lawrence’s Den Rock Park. We enter the area from the end of Sutherland Street, Andover. Bring gloves and loppers if you have them (we’ll have a supply, too). In collaboration with Middlesex Community College and American Rivers. For more information, info@merrimack.org.

RUSTY IS STILL MISSING - The family of Lorne “Rusty” Casey is still looking for the 30 year old missing man who disappeared three years ago this month. Law enforcement leads have gone cold, so



if you could look at this photo above really carefully it may help someone identify him if he’s out there. The family is holding out hope that someone can help them resolve the mystery of Rusty’s disappearance.

RUN FOR OUR TROOPS - The Annual Run for the Troops is coming up in Andover on Sunday, April 22nd. Bernadette and Jim Lyons will be walking with their dogs, Daisy and Scruffi-Belle, in support of this great cause. They are trying to form a team of walkers and hope you will be able to join them. If you are available and would like to participate, please head over to the Run for the Troops website and follow the instructions to register with “Team Daisy.” If you aren’t able to make the walk, but would like to make a donation to this great cause, you can visit their website runforthetroops5k.com/donations.



Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, Heroes in Our Midst, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Podcast which

can be downloaded on iTunes, iHeartRadio, Spotify, and PodBean. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.

DUGGAN AWARD: FROM 6

at attention and salutes his father’s banner in the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade every year, “and he’s also a hero veteran too, so how awesome is that? Congratulations Sgt. Simard you are a real hero.”

LAWRENCE POLICE LT. JAMES RASO - Sgt.Mike Simard after receiving his award took the microphone and told the audience why his friend Lt. Raso is receiving the award.

“I don’t know if you remember Bob Nochnuck (Officer Duggan’s Partner) but he didn’t like new people at all. So Jimmy Raso got on, he got his badge, he got his gun but because he wasn’t certified Nochnuck wouldn’t give him any bullets. So, he was working at the front desk for a week

or two with no bullets in his gun, so we’re lucky he didn’t have to shoot anybody. We went to the academy in 1996 as he said. He obtained his law degree from Mass. School of Law and passed the bar on his first try. Whenever we have a question of Law we can ask Jim and if he can’t answer it then he can ask his partner Jess who’s a prosecutor in the DA’s office. he was assigned to community policing with Tim Dube and he hit the ground running five years into this job. he probably has more arrests than anybody in the department.”

We went to Washington D.C. with a few other cops with Concerns of Police Survivors - an organization that helps families of police killed in the line of duty – it was an

honor going to the wall and seeing Tom’s father’s name on the wall.

He was promoted to Sergeant in 2001, he joined the swat team and in 2005 he suffered a near fatal aneurism after work. He went home, took his boots off and collapsed. He was out for about four or five months I think. He had brain surgery. He came back almost right away, he didn’t want anything special he just wanted to do the job and he came back to give 100%. He’s a certified DRE instructor which is Drug recognition. If you are out there any cop can do a field sobriety test for alcohol but to do it for drugs you have to be highly trained. He’s one of, I think, 40 cops in the state who are trained; I see Chief Chuck Gray here I know he’s trained as well. In 2006 he was promoted to the rank of Lt. and serves as shift commander for both the

midnight shift and the early nights. He’s also an instructor at the police academies. He currently serves as platoon commander for the early night shift where I work for him, so he’s my boss. He’s always fair and holds his guys accountable/ he respects what it is to be a public servant. He’s always telling us how we aren’t something special, we are public servants and that’s how he lives his life and works the job. Two weeks ago he just had twin boys and he has a 2 year old son as well so his motto is three under three,” Simard said to the laughter of the audience.

“I have twins myself so we are in the same boat.... miserable,” he said jokingly.

Based on his commitment to the citizens of Lawrence and this department it is very fitting that you receive the Officer Tom Duggan Public Safety Hero Award.

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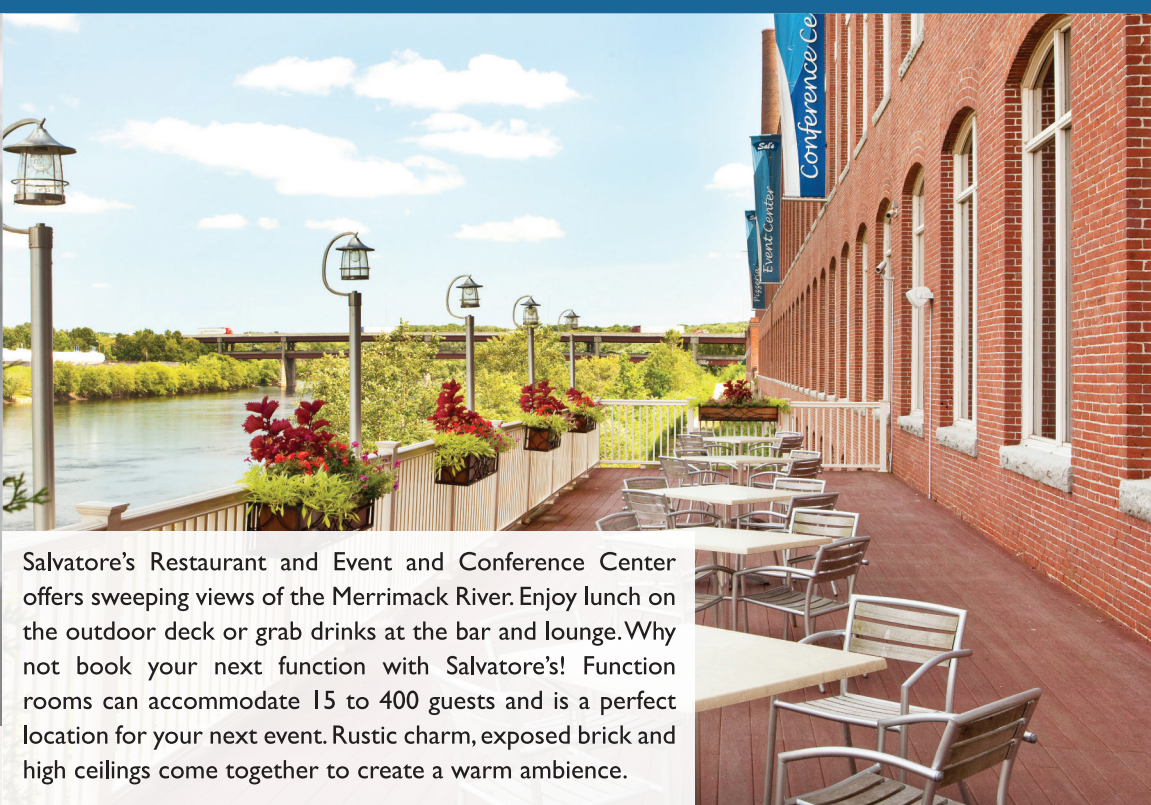


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